

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3C, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 5

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 12, 1783.

Sir: The dispute of Territory between the States of Pennsylvania and Connecticut being now decided, and the frontiers remaining in a perfect state of tranquility; I cannot conceive any reason sufficient for continuing a body of Continental Troops any longer at Wyoming; I propose therefore to take an early occasion of recalling the Detachment of the Jersey Line; to this measure I am particularly reduced, by the suffering situation of those Troops, the great inconveniency of relieving them, and the almost irreparable injury which is done to Discipline by keeping Troops on such Detach'd Commands of which I thought proper to give this intimation. I have the honor etc.⁵²

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 14, 1783.

Sir: I enclose a Letter from Major Tallmadge to your Excellency which came under a flying seal to my hands; the observations contained in it appear to be highly worthy of consideration.

The importance of absolutely cutting off all

52. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

manner of commerce and illicit intercourse with the Enemy is so great, and at the same time so obvious, that I conceive it only necessary to recommend the subject, without enlarging upon it;

in order to engage Your Excellency to use your utmost endeavours to effect a purpose of such interesting consequence to the Public. I have the honor etc.⁵⁴

To JOSEPH CHANDLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 21, 1783.

Sir: By an accidental conveyance, I recd some time ago the Representation you was pleased to address to me on the 25 Ult. respecting the apprehension of Lt Stone of the 1st Masstts Regt. for the murder of Capt Hitchcock of the same Regt; having been until then, totally unacquainted with the circumstances of that unhappy affair some time has been unavoidably consumed in investigating and pointing out the proper line of conduct to be adopted thereon, which must be understood as the reason of my not answering sooner your application.

I have now, Sir, to acquaint you, that such instructions have been given to the Commandg Officer of the 1st Masstts Regt as will upon proper application,

54. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. This same letter was also sent (January 14) to Gov. George Clinton, of New York.

undoubtedly render effectual an attempt to apprehend the Person in question in consequence of a criminal prosecution which shall be legally instituted against him by the Civil Authority. I am &c.⁸⁵

To ANDREW BILLINGS

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Sir: On recurring to Mr. Morris's Letter I find that I mistook its contents, and that I was to draw on him for the Amount of your demand. I therefore now inclose you my bill on the Hon Rob Morris Esqr. of this date for Forty Guineas, payable at sight.⁹⁶ I am &c.⁹⁷

To CHRISTOPHER COLLES¹

Head Quarters, Morris Town, January 25, 1783.

Sir: At the same time I am to acknowledge the rect of your Letter of the 17th. inst. and to agree with you in sentiment that nothing can be attempted in the Works you project,² so long as the War continues, I must take the liberty also to inform you candidly I do not imagine, that the State of Virginia, or

85. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

96. The payment was for engraving the inscription upon the cannon presented by Congress to Comte de Rochambeau.

97. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On this same day (January 22) Washington also wrote briefly to Colonel Olney, as officer commanding the Rhode Island regiment: "You will (Majr. Genl. Lord Stirling being dead) put yourself under the Orders of Colo. Willet (till a superior Officer shall arrive) and with your Regiment pay obedience to his Orders." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*. The letter sent is in the Rhode Island Historical Society.

1. A civil engineer, then at Morristown, N. J.

2. His project was the removal of the obstructions in the Ohio River, to secure an open navigation to the Mississippi.

either of the southern States or Companies of Gentlemen in them, will, for many years to come, think themselves sufficiently interested in the commerce of the great Rivers you mention,³ to incur any considerable expence in opening the Navigation of them.

You may be assured, Sir, I can be actuated with no unfriendly motive in thus giving you my opinion, and that I should not discourage the Project did I not apprehend you would meet with insuperable difficulties. for the plan is, I believe, not only practicable in itself, but if executed, would hereafter be of immense advantage in its consequences: and indeed I have no doubt it will in some future age (which perhaps the rapid increase of population and wealth after the War may precipitate beyond all calculation) be carried into execution.

But from the present juvenile state of the Country, the abundance of land, the scarcity of labourers, and the want of resources, I say from these, and many other circumstances, it appears to me that this is too early a day for accomplishing such great undertakings; and that it would be more advisable to turn your attention and abilities to works of more facility in the performance and of more immediate public utility, in attempting which you will doubtless experience the encouragement and Patronage of all who are friendly to the liberal and useful Arts, as well as the interests of society and their Country. With due regard I am etc.

3. Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

P. S. There was a Scheme just at the Commencement of this War for opening the navigation of the Potowmack; this, from the troubles of the times was laid aside, but I think it far more likely to succeed than that suggested in your Letter.⁴

To WILLIAM P. SMITH

Head Quarters, January 28, 1783.

Sir: I delayed answering your Letter of the 5 Instant¹⁵ only 'till I could cause the necessary enquiry to be made respecting Wm. Deane.

I am now to inform you, that orders are given to have his discharge made out and I wish he may prove a consolation to his Parent; with great regard I am etc.¹⁶

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 29th. January.

Since I had the honor to write the late President, respecting the Enemys having put a stop to the incursions of the Savages,

4. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

15. Smith's letter, dated from Newark, N. J., is in the *Washington Papers*.

16. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

I have received no intelligence but what had seemed to confirm the declarations the Enemy then made how long they will continue this inoffensive System or what may be their designs for next Spring, it is impossible for me to say; it is however best to be prepared for the worst. I am &c.³⁶

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Sir: By a Letter I have lately recv'd from Brigadier General Mulenberg, I find he has reported the proceedings respecting Captain Fox to your Excellency, and requested your farther directions. I am also informed by that General Officer, that there are two obstacles which still greatly oppose and retard the success of collecting your Recruits, viz the want of Provisions to support and carry them to the place of general Rendezvous; and the want of efficacious means for apprehending Deserters. It is very much to be wished that these difficulties might be removed, and that measures might be taken during the Winter, for forming the Troops now in the State, with the Detachment which I imagine will be sent back by General Greene from So. Carolina, into a compleat Regiment or

Regiments in such a manner as that they may be properly appointed and fit for Service before the Opening of the next Campaign. I have the honor etc.⁴¹

[V.S.L.]

36. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

41. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To JONATHAN HOBBY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 7, 1783.

Sir: As the Court of Enquiry upon a revisal of their Proceedings are still of opinion that the Negro man claimed by you is legally holden to serve the term he is inlisted for, and that your only remedy is against the State. The Commander in Chief does not think himself authorized to discharge the Sd Negro, unless another man is obtained by the State, or otherwise, to serve in his room. I am etc.⁵³

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 17, 1783.

Sir: Mr. Wetmore the Depy. Pay Master to this Army is authorized by the Financier to draw Bills upon Philadelphia and Boston for certain sums to be applied to the payment of the Troops weekly, and he is advised by the Pay Master General to use his utmost efforts to negotiate those Draughts for specie that the payments might commence without delay: whereupon Mr. Wetmore has conceived it his duty to wait upon your Excellency; he will deliver this Letter, and will have the honor of explaining this subject

53. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

more fully. As the Money is extremely wanted, and as it will be expended and continue to circulate almost intirely in this State, I doubt not he will meet with every assistance, which either the Legislative Body, or any of the Individuals who compose it, may have it in their power to afford him.

I have taken much pains to prevent the violation of private property by the Troops under my command, and I cannot but flatter myself that the regulations which have been adopted will be attended with the desired effect. I have also established regular Markets, which I am persuaded will be found very convenient and useful to both the Country and Army, especially as soon as the Troops begin to receive their Weekly payments; but in order to put a total stop to an evil which I am apprehensive will otherwise be of very pernicious consequences, it is my earnest wish and desire, that effectual Measures might be taken to prevent the Inhabitants from purchasing or receiving in any other manner, Articles of public property that may be in possession of the Soldiery. I shall establish every possible military precaution to cut off this improper commerce and beg leave to propose whether it might not be expedient for the Legislature to pass an Act prohibiting such purchases on the part of their Subjects under such fines or penalties as may seem sufficient to them for answering the aforesaid purpose.

Inclosed your Excellency will find a Certificate which lately came into my hands respecting a certain Mr. Boothe,⁸⁸ I pretend not to determine how far the fact specifyed therein ought to operate in his favour, being satisfied it will have

88. The certificate was from Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge and referred to the conduct of a William Booth, of New York.

whatever consideration it shall appear to merit. I have the honor etc.⁸⁹

To JAMES McHENRY

February 18, 1783.

Dr Sir: Immediately on the recd. of your Letter to me of the 2d of this Month I ordered an inquiry to be made after the Negro, and have reced the inclosed Letter from Colonel Vose in answer.

Had the Negro been in Camp I should have been happy in restoring him to Mrs. Dulany,¹¹ as well on account of her own Merit as the pleasure it would have afforded you, to have obliged a Lady who has so clever a Daughter. With great regard etc.¹²

To SAMUEL ADAMS AND TRISTRAM DALTON²³

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 22, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have been honoured by the hands of Genl

89. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.

11. Mrs. Mary Dulany.

12. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

23. President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, respectively.

Lincoln and Mr. Higginson with the joint address of the Honble the Senate, and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts dated the 8th day of this Month, containing a representation respecting the British Post at Penobscot, and the dangerous situation of the eastern frontiers of the Commonwealth; together with some proposals for the defence, or entire liberation thereof from danger.

Ever disposed to give the utmost succour to every part of the United States (which the means entrusted to my care will enable me to do), when invaded or menaced by the Enemy, I can never

fail to pay a due consideration to the calls of a State, whose exertions have been so great and meritorious as those of Massachusetts. There are, however, two things in expectation which do at this time prevent my giving any positive Answer to the propositions in question; and which may, in case either of them should take effect, eventually supersede the necessity of taking any farther Measures on the subject; the first is (the most desireable of all Events) a general Pacification; the second (should the first mentioned Event not happen) is a project for attacking the Garrison of New York with an intention to reduce or exterminate the Enemy by a single decisive effort; should this be resolved on as the most eligible Measure, after the maturest deliberation, it will doubtless be conceded on all hands, that, while our Resources ought to be opened for the attainment of this object, every subordinate consideration must of course give place to one of almost infinitely greater Magnitude.

But as these Matters are now before Congress, to whom I have had the honor of submitting them, and whose decision respecting offensive or defensive operations, I shall await for the Government of my future conduct; I can only add, that altho I do not conceive how a serious Expedition could, with any prospect of success, be attempted against the Enemy at Penobscot without a Naval co-operation, on account of the heavy expense and consequent impracticability of land transportation for the Artillery, Stores &c; I beg it may nevertheless be understood I shall always be ready to give my concurrence to any judicious Plans which will contribute to the security of the exposed extremities of your Commonwealth, whenever the circumstances will admit, and whenever an object of confessedly higher consideration and importance shall not occur to prevent it. In the mean time, should the War be protracted and only defensive Measures adopted; the protection and safety of the eastern frontiers of your State (a territory whose utility is very deeply impressed upon me) will claim and receive my particular attention. With perfect respect, etc.²⁴

To PELATIAH HAWS⁴⁶

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 27, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 14th.⁴⁷ and in consequence of it have issued a general Order,⁴⁸ that whenever

24. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

46. Justice of the peace, Westchester County, N.Y., at Peekskill.

47. Haw's letter recounts that "Last night their was 19 Billeted on me and Before Bedtime they Incresed to above 30." Haw's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

48. Of Feb. 27, 1782.

a Regt. is ordered for duty on the Lines, the Quarter Master or some Officer in his room will precede the Regt. one day at least, for the purpose of providing convenient Quarters, on the route as well as on the Lines, without incommoding the Inhabitants more than is absolutely necessary. The Qr Mastr or Officer employed on this business will apply to the Civil Authority in the vicinity, and the Mode pointed out by an Act of this State for Billeting Troops is to be observed on all ordinary occasions so far as the circumstances of the service will permit. This to be a standing Order. I hope you will not suffer any farther inconveniency on this account in future; and that notwithstanding your age and infirmity, you may yet live to see the happy return of Peace and many good days. I am etc.⁴⁹

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 24th febry.

[Circumstanced, as our Affairs are], it is impracticable for me, to comply with your request, for a Body of Continental Troops to be stationed at Stamford: some Aid, however may be given to your State Troops, by the Countenance [and increase] of our marching

49. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On February 27 Washington wrote briefly to Paymaster General John Pierce to inform him “if any Sum was advanced to my order between Feby. and May 1777. to whom; for what sum; and the precise date.” This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

parties, who are patrolling on the Lines, and may extend as far as the Sound. I will give orders for this purpose, and that the Officers on that Command shall hold Communication with Colo Canfield, or other Commandg Officer of the State Troops; and afford them all the necessary Assistance, in their power, as Circumstances may require.

On this Occasion, I cannot omit to mention to your Excellency, that I am informed of a very unwarrantable Trade and Intercourse with the Enemy, from Western Shores of your State. [In which the Commissioned Vessels are instrumental, and Flags are Prostituted]; particularly in transportg a cross the Sound, great Quantities of provisions; meat and Bread, in open Day, without Interruption; and, that, as I am told, almost under the Eye of your Officers and Troops Stationed in that Quarter; in which Business, it is to be feared, your Commissioned Boats and Vessels, are not exempted from bearing a part. Are there no practicable means of preventing these shamefull Abuses? or is the Measure tolerated by the State?

The frequent⁸⁸ Indulgences given, as I am informed, to Flags, to pass in the Sound, to and from N York, in a great measure serve, not only to frustrate the beneficial Effects I expected to experience from fixing on Dobbs Ferry as the only place of intercourse of that kind with the Enemy; but are, I fancy, prostituted to the vile purposes of extendg that illicit Trade with them, which, in my Opinion, it should be the Care of the State to prevent, by every possible Means. I have the Honor etc.⁸⁹

88. At this point the draft has the following variation, “passing of Flags, which are indulged in by the Eastern States not only.”

89. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling is followed.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM PACA

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 21st of Febry, respecting the Depredations committed by the Enemy in the Chesapeak Bay; and have taken the Liberty to transmit a Copy of your Letter to Sir Guy Carleton. If the British Commander in Chief shall think proper to make me a Reply, his Sentiments shall be communicated to your Excellency as early as possible.

However to be lamented, such practices are, which you mention, yet I have reason to fear that similar Ones have been but too frequent on both Sides, and that Sir Guy may take this Occasion to enter into particulars of recrimination. For my own part, I sincerely wish, for the honor of humanity, that these Acts of uncivilized War, might wholly cease on either part.

This being the first Occasion I have had to address your Excellency, I cannot omit to present you my warmest Congratulations on your Appointment to the Chief Seat of Government; a Circumstance, which, at the same Time that I assure myself it will prove very honorable to yourself, I am persuaded, will have a happy Influence on the State over which you preside, as well as upon the general Welfare of the United States. I am &c.⁹³

93. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On March 3 Washington wrote briefly to Sir Guy Carleton, forwarding Governor Paca's letter. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, March 10, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellencys Letter of the 6th. instant, has been communicated to the Quarter M Genl, with Directions, that he should take such Measures as are in his power, to comply with Mrs. Jones's request.¹¹

In Consequence of this Colo Pickering has forwarded a Copy of your Excellys Letter to Mr Morris, whose Instructions relative to the matter, he wishes to obtain. With great Regard etc.¹²

[H.L.]

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I take the liberty of forwarding to your Excellency a Latter from a Mr. Wormly in New York. His present application I suppose is in consequence of the information I had given him that a Passport for his return to Virginia could only be granted upon his obtaining permission for the purpose from the Executive of the State. I now leave his request to its own operation and the wisdom of Government. With great regard etc.

11. Mrs. Margaret Jones, stepmother of Dr. John Jones, of Bellemont, N.Y., had requested reimbursement for damage done her timberlands by the Army.

12. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

P.S. The Money sent out some time ago is still in the Hands of Colo Smith. Mr. Inglis tho' advised of it will not send for it; the money for Chevr Chattelleun came a few days since.⁵⁴

[V.S.L.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, March 27, 1783.

Dr Sir: I take the first moment of forwardg to your Excellency, the Dispatches of the Secry of Foreign Affairs; which contain, I presume, all the Intelligence respecting Peace, on which happy and glorious Event, permit me to congratulate

54. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

you with the greatest sincerity. With perfect respect etc.⁷⁴

To SAMUEL ADAMS AND TRISTRAM DALTON

Head Quarters, March 29, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your joint Letter of the 10th instant.

Happy, inexpressibly happy, in the certain Intelligence of a general Peace, which was concluded on the 20th Janry. I feel an additional pleasure in reflecting that this glorious Event will prove a sure means to dispel the Fears expressed by your Commonwealth for their North Eastern Boundary. that Territory being by the Treaty secured to the United States, in its full Extent.

[I have to thank you for doing me the justice to believe that my attention to all parts of the United States is extended in proportion to the magnitude of the object and that no partial considerations have any influence on my conduct.]

You will permit me Gentlemen, on this occasion, to express my warmest Congratulations to you; to the Senate and Representatives of your Commonwealth, and thro' them, to all its good Citizens; whose prompt Exertions in the general Cause,

74. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

have contributed largely towards the Attainment of that great Prize, for which the United States have so long and successfully Contended. I am &c.⁷⁹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, April 8, 1783.

Sir: With infinite satisfaction I communicate to your Excellency the inclosed Extracts from Sir Guy Carleton's official Letter²³ which has this Moment come to my Hand, by a British Officer, announcing a Certainty of the glorious Event of a general Peace.

79. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The part in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

23. Carleton's letter (Apr. 6, 1783) announced the signing of the preliminary or provisional treaty of peace with France and Spain, that a cessation of hostilities would be proclaimed April 8, and that hostilities had ceased between Great Britain and Holland. Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this happy Occasion your Excellency will be pleased to accept my warmest and most sincere Congratulations. With the greatest Esteem etc.²⁴

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES⁴⁶

Head Quarters, April 14, 1783.

Sir: Previous to the disbanding of the Army, an event which is to be wished, may take place with as much ease and satisfaction as circumstances will admit, Congress have directed that a compleat settlement and liquidation of all their Accounts shall be made; To effect this the Pay Master Genl. is

arrived, with full Instructions to enter immediately upon the settlement, and to compleat it as soon as possible; In performing this Duty he informs me that recourse must be had to the several States for their Accounts (if they have any) against their respective Lines; this requisition probably may have been, or will be, made by Mr. Morris; but as I consider it of the utmost importance both for the ease and quiet of the Army, as well as in point of Oeconomy to the Public, that this business should be effected with all the dispatch that it is possible to give it, I have procured from the Pay Master Genl. the enclosed minutes of what he judges necessary to obtain from the States, as part of the ground of his settlement; which I take the liberty to transmit to your Excellency, with my

24. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

46. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

most earnest request, that you will be pleased to give Directions that the earliest attention may be given to forward, without the least delay, to Mr. Pierce, Pay Master Genl., whatever information, Accounts or papers, shall on examination of his Minutes, be found necessary; together with any other papers or documents which may be thought proper from your State to effect the settlement proposed.

I have taken this liberty the rather, as it is judged, that, on a supposition of the utmost dispatch in the States, the greatest delay in compleating this very important settlement, will most probably arise from the time necessary to obtain their Accounts.⁴⁷ I have the honor etc.⁴⁸

47. The circular was accompanied by a set of queries from the Paymaster General to the States, the evident purpose of which was to enable him to establish a uniform basis for paying off the Army. In the Connecticut circular these queries are in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The draft of the circular. in the *Washington Papers*, is dated April 12, and the queries, in the writing of Pierce, contain this additional one, not found in the Connecticut document: "Supplies to the families of Officers and Soldier."

48. In the writing of David Cobb. From the circular sent to Connecticut, the original of which is in the Connecticut State Library.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, April 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: Impressed with the same Ideas as are mentioned in your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday, I have this Day previous to receipt of yours, transmitted to Brigr Genl McLean: comdg in the District of Niagara, Copies of several Late Communications from Sir Guy Carleton: One of the Proclamations of the King of G Britain for cessation of Hostilities, and a N York Paper, containing the Articles of general Pacification between all the Belligerent powers. These Dispatches are put under Cover to Colo Willet with my Desire to him that they should be sent with an Indian Runner by the most Expeditious Route to Niagara. These papers I hope will answer the purposes mentioned by your Excellency without the Delay of sendg to Sir Guy Carleton.

The Disaster said to have happened to the Wyoming Settlements, is mentioned to me as a Report only. I hope it is without foundation. I am &c.⁴⁵

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, April 20, 1783, 7 o'Clock at Evening.

Dear Sir: In consequence of a Resolution of Congress ordering Arrangements to be formed by me and the Minister at War for the Liberation of Prisoners, and directing a Negotiation to be entered into with Sir Guy Carleton, for the Delivery of the British Posts, I am this Moment returned from Ringwood, where I went Yesterday, to meet and have a Conference with General Lincoln. As the Negotiation with Sir Guy, has great reference to your State, I wish to see your Excellency before I write him on the Subject, and from what I had been told, I promised myself the Pleasure of Meeting you on my Return from Ringwood, at Head Quarters. If it is consistent with Your Excellencys

Business and Convenience, I will be exceedg glad to see you here in the Mornng. An Express is dispatched with this, on purpose to make the request. I have the Honor etc.

PS. I am obliged to send off my Letter to Sir Guy Tomorrow, on Acco of the Arrangement respectg the prisoners.⁷⁷

[CH.H.S.]

45. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter sent is in the possession (1937) of Frederick S. Peck, of Barrington, R. I.

77. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, May 26, 1783.

Sir: The inclosed papers were handed to me a few Day ago. The Case of the Officer⁸⁷ as therein represented, appears singularly hard; but I can only refer him to the Civil power, for Relief from civil processes.

I will thank your Excellency to take the Trouble of reading the papers, and, if any legal Remedy can be given to Lieut Steuart, that you will be pleased to suggest the Mode to B Genl Hazen. With great Respect etc.⁸⁸

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 8, 1783.²⁹

Sir: The great object for which I had the honor to hold an appointment in the Service of my Country, being accomplished, I am now preparing to resign it into the hands of Congress, and to

return to that domestic retirement, which, it is well known, I left with the greatest reluctance, a Retirement, for which I have never ceased to sigh through a long and painful absence, and in which (remote

87. Lieut. William Stuart. of the Second Canadian Regiment, had been arrested by the sheriff for seizing bills of exchange going into New York. His letter of May 7 to Brig. Gen. Moses Hazen, explaining his situation, is in the *Washington Papers*.

88. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

29. The length of the Circular and the consequent time consumed in making 13 copies of it account for the different dates under which many of them are found, and the different handwritings in which they are transcribed. The circular to Virginia (Governor Harrison) is dated June 12; the one to Maryland (Governor Paca), June 14; that to New York (Governor Clinton), June 21 to Connecticut (Governor Trumbull), is dated merely June; and another of the originals (the address of which has been destroyed), is dated June 11 and is in the *Washington Papers*.

from the noise and trouble of the World) I meditate to pass the remainder of life in a state of undisturbed repose; But before I carry this resolution into effect, I think it a duty incumbent on me, to make this my last official communication, to congratulate you on the glorious events which Heaven has been pleased to produce in our favor, to offer my sentiments respecting some important subjects, which appear to me, to be intimately connected with the tranquility of the United States, to take my leave of your Excellency as a public Character, and to give my final blessing to that Country, in whose service I have spent the prime of my life, for whose sake I have consumed so many anxious days and watchfull nights, and whose happiness being extremely dear to me, will always constitute no inconsiderable part of my own.

Impressed with the liveliest sensibility on this pleasing occasion, I will claim the indulgence of dilating the more copiously on the subjects of our mutual felicitation. When we consider the magnitude of the prize we contended for, the doubtful nature of the contest, and the favorable manner in which it has terminated, we shall find the greatest possible reason for gratitude and

rejoicing; this is a theme that will afford infinite delight to every benevolent and liberal mind, whether the event in contemplation, be considered as the source of present enjoyment or the parent of future happiness; and we shall have equal occasion to felicitate ourselves on the lot which Providence has assigned us, whether we view it in a natural, a political or moral point of light.

The Citizens of America, placed in the

most enviable condition, as the sole Lords and Proprietors of a vast Tract of Continent, comprehending all the various soils and climates of the World, and abounding with all the necessities and conveniencies of life, are now by the late satisfactory pacification, acknowledged to be possessed of absolute freedom and Independency; They are, from this period, to be considered as the Actors on a most conspicuous Theatre, which seems to be peculiarly designated by Providence for the display of human greatness and felicity; Here, they are not only surrounded with every thing which can contribute to the completion of private and domestic enjoyment, but Heaven has crowned all its other blessings, by giving a fairer opportunity for political happiness, than any other Nation has ever been favored with. Nothing can illustrate these observations more forcibly, than a recollection of the happy conjuncture of times and circumstances, under which our Republic assumed its rank among the Nations; The foundation of our Empire was not laid in the gloomy age of Ignorance and Superstition, but at an Epocha when the rights of mankind were better understood and more clearly defined, than at any former period, the researches of the human mind, after social happiness, have been carried to a great extent, the Treasures of knowledge, acquired by the labours of Philosophers, Sages and Legislatures, through a long succession of years, are laid open for our use, and their collected wisdom may be happily applied in the Establishment of our forms of Government; the free cultivation of Letters, the unbounded extension of Commerce, the progressive refinement of Manners, the growing liberality of sentiment, and above all, the pure and

benign light of Revelation, have had ameliorating influence on mankind and increased the blessings of Society. At this auspicious period, the United States came into existence as a Nation, and if their Citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be intirely their own.

Such is our situation, and such are our prospects: but notwithstanding the cup of blessing is thus reached out to us, notwithstanding happiness is ours, if we have a disposition to seize the occasion and make it our own; yet, it appears to me there is an option still left to the United States of America, that it is in their choice, and depends upon their conduct, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and miserable as a Nation; This is the time of their political probation, this is the moment when the eyes of the whole World are turned upon them, this is the moment to establish or ruin their national Character forever, this is the favorable moment to give such a tone to our Federal Government, as will enable it to answer the ends of its institution, or this may be the ill-fated moment for relaxing the powers of the Union, annihilating the cement of the Confederation, and exposing us to become the sport of European politics, which may play one State against another to prevent their growing importance, and to serve their own interested purposes. For, according to the system of Policy the States shall adopt at this moment, they will stand or fall, and by their confirmation or lapse, it is yet to be decided, whether the Revolution must ultimately be considered as a blessing or a curse: a blessing or a curse, not to the present age

alone, for with our fate will the destiny of unborn Millions be involved.

With this conviction of the importance of the present Crisis, silence in me would be a crime; I will therefore speak to your Excellency, the language of freedom and of sincerity, without disguise; I am aware, however, that those who differ from me in political sentiment, may perhaps remark, I am stepping out of the proper line of my duty, and they may possibly ascribe to arrogance or ostentation, what I know is alone the result of the purest intention, but the rectitude of my own heart, which disdains such unworthy motives, the part I have hitherto acted in life, the determination I have formed, of not taking any share in public business hereafter, the ardent desire I feel, and shall continue to manifest, of quietly enjoying in private life, after all the toils of War, the benefits of a wise and liberal Government, will, I flatter myself, sooner or later convince my Countrymen, that I could have no sinister views in delivering with so little reserve, the opinions contained in this Address.

There are four things, which I humbly conceive, are essential to the well being, I may even venture to say, to the existence of the United States as an Independent Power:

1st. An indissoluble Union of the States under one Federal Head.

2dly. A Sacred regard to Public Justice.

3dly. The adoption of a proper Peace Establishment, and

4thly. The prevalence of that pacific and friendly Disposition, among the People of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the Community.

These are the pillars on which the glorious Fabrick of our Independency and National Character must be supported; Liberty is the Basis, and whoever would dare to sap the foundation, or overturn the Structure, under whatever specious pretexts he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest execration, and the severest punishment which can be inflicted by his injured Country.

On the three first Articles I will make a few observations, leaving the last to the good sense and serious consideration of those immediately concerned.

Under the first head, altho' it may not be necessary or proper for me in this place to enter into a particular disquisition of the principles of the Union, and to take up the great question which has been frequently agitated, whether it be expedient and requisite for the States to delegate a larger proportion of Power to Congress, or not, Yet it will be a part of my duty, and that of every true Patriot, to assert without reserve, and to insist upon the following positions, That unless the States will suffer Congress to exercise those prerogatives, they are undoubtedly invested with by the Constitution, every thing must very rapidly tend to Anarchy and confusion, That it is indispensable to the happiness of the individual States, that there should be lodged somewhere, a Supreme Power

to regulate and govern the general concerns of the Confederated Republic, without which the Union cannot be of long duration.

That there must be a faithfull and pointed compliance on the part of every State, with the late proposals and demands of Congress, or the most fatal consequences will ensue, That whatever measures have a tendency to dissolve the Union, or contribute to violate or lessen the Sovereign Authority, ought to be considered as hostile to the Liberty and Independency of America, and the Authors of them treated accordingly, and lastly, that unless we can be enabled by the concurrence of the States, to participate of the fruits of the Revolution, and enjoy the essential benefits of Civil Society, under a form of Government so free and uncorrupted, so happily guarded against the danger of oppression, as has been devised and adopted by the Articles of Confederation, it will be a subject of regret, that so much blood and treasure have been lavished for no purpose, that so many sufferings have been encountered without a compensation, and that so many sacrifices have been made in vain. Many other considerations might here be adduced to prove, that without an entire conformity to the Spirit of the Union, we cannot exist as an Independent Power; it will be sufficient for my purpose to mention but one or two which seem to me of the greatest importance. It is only in our united Character as an Empire, that our Independence is acknowledged, that our power can be regarded, or our Credit supported among Foreign Nations. The Treaties of the European Powers with the United States of America, will have no validity on a dissolution of the Union. We shall be left nearly in a state of Nature, or we may find by our own unhappy experience, that there is a natural and necessary progression, from the extreme of anarchy to the extreme of Tyranny; and that arbitrary power is most easily

established on the ruins of Liberty abused to licentiousness.

As to file second Article, which respects the performance of Public Justice, Congress have, in their late Address to the United States, almost exhausted the subject, they have explained their Ideas so fully, and have enforced the obligations the States are under, to render compleat justice to all the Public Creditors, with so much dignity and energy, that in my opinion, no real friend to the honor and Independency of America, can hesitate a single moment respecting the propriety of complying

with the just and honorable measures proposed; if their Arguments do not produce conviction, I know of nothing that will have greater influence; especially when we recollect that the System referred to, being the result of the collected Wisdom of the Continent, must be esteemed, if not perfect, certainly the least objectionable of any that could be devised; and that if it shall not be carried into immediate execution, a National Bankruptcy, with all its deplorable consequences will take place, before any different Plan can possibly be proposed and adopted; So pressing are the present circumstances I and such is the alternative now offered to the States!

The ability of the Country to discharge the debts which have been incurred in its defence, is not to be doubted, an inclination, I flatter myself, will not be wanting, the path of our duty is plain before us, honesty will be found on every experiment, to be the best and only true policy, let us then as a Nation be just, let us fulfil the public Contracts, which Congress had undoubtedly a right to make for the purpose of carrying on the War, with the same good faith we suppose ourselves bound to perform our private engagements;

in the mean time, let an attention to the chearfull performance of their proper business, as Individuals, and as members of Society, be earnestly inculcated on the Citizens of America, that will they strengthen the hands of Government, and be happy under its protection: every one will reap the fruit of his labours, every one will enjoy his own acquisitions without molestation and without danger.

In this state of absolute freedom and perfect security, who will grudge to yield a very little of his property to support the common interest of Society, and insure the protection of Government? Who does not remember, the frequent declarations, at the commencement of the War, that we should be compleatly satisfied, if at the expence of one half, we could defend the remainder of our possessions? Where is the Man to be found, who wishes to remain indebted, for the defence of his own person and property, to the exertions, the bravery, and the blood of others, without making one generous effort to repay the debt of honor and of gratitude? In what part of the Continent shall we find any Man, or body of Men, who would not blush to stand up and propose measures, purposely calculated to rob the Soldier of his Stipend, and the Public Creditor of his due? and

were it possible that such a flagrant instance of Injustice could ever happen, would it not excite the general indignation, and tend to bring down, upon the Authors of such measures, the aggravated vengeance of Heaven? If after all, a spirit of dis-union or a temper of obstinacy and perverseness, should manifest itself in any of the States, if such an ungracious disposition should attempt to frustrate all the happy effects that might be expected to flow from

the Union, if there should be a refusal to comply with the requisitions for Funds to discharge the annual interest of the public debts, and if that refusal should revive again all those jealousies and produce all those evils, which are now happily removed, Congress, who have in all their Transaction shewn a great degree of magnanimity and justice, will stand justified in the sight of God and Man, and the State alone which puts itself in opposition to the aggregate Wisdom of the Continent, and follows such mistaken and pernicious Councils, will be responsible for all the consequences.³⁰

For my own part, conscious of having acted while a Servant of the Public, in the manner I conceived best suited to promote the real interests of my Country; having in consequence of my fixed belief in some measure pledged myself to the Army, that their Country would finally do them compleat and ample Justice, and not wishing to conceal any instance of my official conduct from the eyes of the World, I have thought proper to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed collection of Papers,³¹ relative to the half pay and commutation granted by Congress to the Officers of the Army; From these communications, my decided sentiment will be clearly comprehended, together with the conclusive reasons which induced me, at an early period, to recommend the adoption of the measure, in the most earnest and serious manner. As the proceedings of Congress, the Army, and myself are open to all, and contain in my opinion, sufficient information to remove the prejudices and errors which may have been entertained by any; I think it unnecessary to say any thing more, than just to observe, that the Resolutions of Congress, now alluded to, are

30. Edmund Randolph, writing from Virginia, June 28, 1783, to James Madison, in Congress, stated: "The arrival of Gen: Washington's circular letter excited this hope [of the passage of the

impost law] in the minds of the sanguine: but its effect is momentary, and perhaps it will hereafter be accepted by the assembly with disgust. For the murmur is free and general against what is called the unsolicited obtrusion of his advice.” Randolph's letter is in the *Madison Papers* in the Library of Congress.

31. The “inclosed collection of Papers” is not listed or noted in the *Washington Papers*, nor with any of these circulars which have been seen by the editor. The following note is appended to the circular sent to Connecticut (now in the Connecticut State Library): “The collection of Papers mentioned to be inclosed, not being compleated, cannot be sent by this oppertunity; but will be forwarded in a few days; the present Letter is sent on in this manner, lest your Legislature should be adjourned before its arrival.” Before June 15 a pamphlet of 36 pages was printed by Samuel Loudon, Fishkill, N. Y., entitled “A Collection of Papers relative to Half-Pay and Commutation of Half-Pay granted by Congress....Compiled by permission of His Excellency General Washington from the Original Papers in his Possession. Fishkill: Printed by Samuel Loudon M,DCC,LXXXIII.” In all probability one of these pamphlets was inclose in each circular.

undoubtedly as absolutely binding upon the United States, as the most solemn Acts of Confederation or Legislation. As to the Idea, which I am informed has in some instances prevailed, that the half pay and commutation are to be regarded merely in the odious light of a Pension, it ought to be exploded forever; that Provision, should be viewed as it really was, a reasonable compensation offered by Congress, at a time when they had nothing else to give, to the Officers of the Army, for services then to be performed. It was the only means to prevent a total dereliction of the Service, It was a part of their hire, I may be allowed to say, it was the price of their blood and of your Independency, it is therefore more than a common debt, it is a debt of honour, it can never be considered as a Pension or gratuity, nor be cancelled until it is fairly discharged.

With regard to a distinction between Officers and Soldiers, it is sufficient that the uniform experience of every Nation of the World, combined with our own, proves the utility and propriety of the discrimination. Rewards in proportion to the aids the public derives from them, are unquestionably due to all its Servants; In some Lines, the Soldiers have perhaps generally had as

ample a compensation for their Services, by the large Bounties which have been paid to them, as their Officers will receive in the proposed Commutation, in others, if besides the donation of Lands, the payment of Arrearages of Cloathing and Wages (in which Articles all the component parts of the Army must be put upon the same footing) we take into the estimate, the Bounties³² many of the Soldiers have received and the gratuity of one Year's full pay, which is promised to all, possibly their

32. The word “*Douceurs*” is caretred above the word “Bounties,” but does not appear in any of the circulars sent which have been seen by the editor.

situation (every circumstance being duly considered) will not be deemed less eligible than that of the Officers. Should a farther reward, however, be judged equitable, I will venture to assert, no one will enjoy greater satisfaction than myself, on seeing an exemption from Taxes for a limited time, (which has been petitioned for in some instances) or any other adequate immunity or compensation, granted to the brave defenders of their Country's Cause; but neither the adoption or rejection of this proposition will in any manner affect, much less militate against, the Act of Congress, by which they have offered five years full pay, in lieu of the half pay for life, which had been before promised to the Officers of the Army.

Before I conclude the subject of public justice, I cannot omit to mention the obligations this Country is under, to that meritorious Class of veteran Non-commissioned Officers and Privates, who have been discharged for inability, in consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 23d of April 1782, on an annual pension for life, their peculiar sufferings, their singular merits and claims to that provision need only be known, to interest all the feelings of humanity in their behalf: nothing but a punctual payment of their annual allowance can rescue them from the most complicated misery, and nothing could be a more melancholy and distressing sight, than to behold those who have shed their blood or lost their limbs in the service of their Country, without a shelter, without a friend, and without the means of obtaining any of the necessaries or comforts of Life; compelled to

beg their daily bread from door to door. suffer me to recommend those of this discription, belonging to your State, to the warmest patronage of your Excellency and your Legislature.

It is necessary to say but a few words on the third topic which was proposed, and which regards particularly the defence of the Republic, As there can be little doubt but Congress will recommend a proper Peace Establishment for the United States, in which a due attention will be paid to the importance of placing the Militia of the Union upon a regular and respectable footing; If this should be the case, I would beg leave to urge the great advantage of it in the strongest terms. The Militia of this Country must be considered as the Palladium of our security, and the first effectual resort in case of hostility; It is essential therefore, that the same system should pervade the whole; that the formation and discipline of the Militia of the Continent should be absolutely uniform, and that the same species of Arms, Accoutrements and Military Apparatus, should be introduced in every part of the United States; No one, (who has not learned it from experience, can conceive the difficulty, expence, and confusion which result from a contrary system, or the vague Arrangements which have hitherto prevailed.

If in treating of political points, a greater latitude than usual has been taken in the course of this Address, the importance of the Crisis, and the magnitude of the objects in discussion, must be my apology: It is, however, neither my wish or expectation, that the preceding observations should claim any regard, except so far as they shall appear to be dictated by a good intention, consonant to the immutable rules of Justice; calculated to produce a liberal system of policy, and founded on whatever experience may have been acquired by a long and close attention

to public business. Here I might speak with the more confidence from my actual observations, and, if it would not swell this Letter (already too prolix) beyond the bounds I had prescribed myself: I could demonstrate to every mind open to conviction, that in less time and with much less expence than has been incurred, the War might have been brought to the same happy conclusion, if the resourses of the Continent could have been properly drawn forth, that the distresses and disappointments which have very often occurred, have in too many instances, resulted more from a want of energy, in the Continental Government, than a deficiency of means in the particular States.

That the inefficiency of measures, arising from the want of an adequate authority in the Supreme Power, from a partial compliance with the Requisitions of Congress in some of the States, and from a failure of punctuality in others, while it tended to damp the zeal of those which were more willing to exert themselves; served also to accumulate the expences of the War, and to frustrate the best concerted Plans, and that the discouragement occasioned by the complicated difficulties and embarrassments, in which our affairs were, by this means involved, would have long ago produced the dissolution of any Army, less patient, less virtuous and less persevering, than that which I have had the honor to command. But while I mention these things, which are notorious facts, as the defects of our Federal Constitution, particularly in the prosecution of a War, I beg it may be understood, that as I have ever taken a pleasure in gratefully acknowledging the assistance and support I have derived from every Class of Citizens, so shall I always be happy to do justice to the unparalleled

exertion of the individual States, on many interesting occasions.

I have thus freely disclosed what I wished to make known, before I surrendered up my Public trust to those who committed it to me, the task is now accomplished, I now bid adieu to your Excellency as the Chief Magistrate of your State, at the same time I bid a last farewell to the cares of Office, and all the employments of public life.

It remains then to be my final and only request, that your Excellency will communicate these sentiments to your Legislature at their next meeting, and that they may be considered as the Legacy of One, who has ardently wished, on all occasions, to be useful to his Country, and who, even in the shade of Retirement, will not fail to implore the divine benediction upon it.

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us

all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.³³

33. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

To REVEREND JOHN RODGERS

Head Quarters, June 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: I accept, with much pleasure your kind Congratulations on the happy Event of Peace, with the Establishment of our Liberties and Independence.

Glorious indeed has been our Contest: glorious, if we consider the Prize for which we have contended, and glorious in its Issue; but in the midst of our Joys, I hope we shall not forget that, to divine Providence is to be ascribed the Glory and the Praise.

Your proposition respecting Mr Aikins Bibles¹ would have been particularly noticed by me, had it been suggested in Season; but the late Resolution of Congress for discharging Part of the Army, takg off near two thirds of our Numbers, it is now too late to make the Attempt. It would have pleased me, if Congress should have made such an important present, to the brave fellows, who have done so much for the Security of their Country's Rights and Establishment.

I hope it will not be long before you will be able to go peaceably to N York; some patience however will yet be necessary; but Patience is a noble Virtue, and when rightly exercised, does not fail of its Reward. With much Regard etc.²

1. Rodgers's letter (May 30) suggested that Congress present each soldier with a Bible. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

2. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, June 14, 1783.

Sir: In conformity to Mr Izard's request I take this liberty to inclose to your Excellency a Letter from Mrs. Delancey¹⁶ to him, discribing the outrages which have been committed in the County of West Chester. I am well assured that every species of licenciousness and disorder hath and will meet with your displeasure; and I have therefore informed Mr Izard what measures have been taken for the prevention of irregularities in future, and the establishment of Civil Government again in that District.

Inclosed you will find a Note from your old acquaintance Mr Rivington, and the Papers alluded to therein will be delivered to you by the same conveyance.¹⁷

To RALPH IZARD

Head Quarters, June 14, 1783.

Sir: I have transmitted to Governor Clinton the Letter of Mrs. Delancey, which you was pleased to inclose to me.

The Acts complained of were committed at a Time when neither civil or military Government existed in

16. Mrs. Peter(?) Delancey (Elizabeth Colden).

17. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The following concluding paragraph is crossed off in the draft: "Perhaps the amusement contained in them will be encreased by so conspicuous a proof the returning politeness of one of your subjects who has been a man of no

small notoriety *during the whole Rebellion*, and who has been so remarkably distinguished for his regard to veracity, that his humble protestation of attachment can not at this time be disputed.”

that part of the Country, and while Measures were concerting for their Reestablishment under American Laws and Polity; those enormities, being totally abhorrent to my Disposition, as soon as they were made known to me, I communicated to the Governor, who is equally disposed to preserve Peace and good Order.

The Chief Justice of the State, supported by a Regiment of Continental Troops, is now administring Justice in that County; since his Arrival there, I believe no Outrages like what Mrs. Delancy complains of, have been experienced; And I hope e'er long, that good Order and Regularity of Government may prevail in that distressed Country. I am &c.¹⁸

CIRCULAR TO MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, AND VIRGINIA

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose a Pamphlet which contains four additional papers³⁴ that were not printed at the time when I forwarded my Circular Letter, to you; these will now make the collection compleat, and shew the distressed state of the Army at the period of its approaching dissolution. I have the honor &c.³⁵

[N.H.H.S.]

18. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On June 14 Washington forwarded a copy of Sir Guy Carleton's letter of June 10 to him to Congress in a brief note. Carleton had written:

“I cannot, Sir, but be well satisfied, that Congress has transmitted the case, concerning certain negroes for whose protection the publick faith had been pledged, (but which is considered by Congress as contrary to the true intent and meaning of the provisional articles of peace) to it's plenipotentiaries in Europe, as those Gentlemen and the King's Ministers, between whom those articles were negotiated, may be considered as most competent and able to ascertain their true intent and meaning; and, swayed by these considerations, I have already for my own part, referred to the King's Servants those points wherein I judged, that, on your side the true intent and meaning of this treaty has not been preserved, and in particular the consideration of those impediments which have been found in the execution of the 5th. and 6th. articles, even in cases where the stipulations contained therein are absolute, both in meaning and expression, but whose effect has been opposed, both by laws now subsisting in the different States, and by the resolves of different bodies of men who seem to act without control, and to have the means of execution in their own hands; and with respect, Sir, to the stipulations in the same articles, which have been thrown into a recommendatory form, I have been discouraged from renewing my applications thereon, by letter from Mr. Livingston the Minister for foreign affairs, of so early a date as the lath of April, which seems to refer me for their execution to some future time. I entertain however the fullest confidence, that Congress will take the best and surest, as well as most speedy means of giving to this treaty all that efficacy which shall not only be perfectly consistent with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which I hope and trust will universally prevail.” Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (June 14) Humphreys wrote to Heath, that the Commander in Chief approved “the Arrangements of the Reformed Regts and Corps In this Cantonment.” Humphrey's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (June 14), Trumbull wrote to Col. Walter Stewart, respecting promotions made by Brig. Gen. Hazen, for making which that General had no authority. “The promotions you mention are therefore to be disregarded in the Muster, until Genl Hazen can satisfactorily explain this Conduct.” Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

34. On the subject of half-pay and commutation for the Army.

35. In the writing of David Cobb.

To RALPH IZARD

Head Quarters, June 19, 1783.

Sir: I had the pleasure to write you the 14 of this Month, in answer to your Lre respecting the outrage committed on Mr Delancy.³⁶

I have now the honour to transmit you Extract of Governor Clintons Letter³⁷ to me on the same subject. I am &c.³⁸

To JOHN BARCLAY & COMPANY¹⁸

Headquarters, August 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: I am much obliged by the Care you have taken to forward to me the Letters from the Baron de Capellan¹⁹ and the six Kegs of Herrings from the patriotic Society of Enkhuysen, which came to me a few days ago.

May I beg the favor that You will

36. Mrs. Delancey.

37. This letter, dated June 15, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

38. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

18. Merchants of Philadelphia.

19. Johan Derk, Baron Van der Capellen de Pol, member of the House of Nobles, Province of Overijssel, Holland.

continue your kind Offices in forwarding for me the inclosed Letter to the Baron acknowledging the favor of the Present made me. I have the Honor etc.²⁰

To THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Gentlemen: The Address of so respectable a Body as the

20. From a contemporary copy in the writing of Richard Varick.

Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, congratulating me on so auspicious an Event as the Return of Peace,⁴³ cannot fail to affect me with the highest pleasure and gratification.

Be assured Gentlemen, that, through the many and complicated vicissitudes of an arduous Conflict, I have ever turned my Eye, with a fixed Confidence on that superintendg. Providence which governs all Events: and the lively Gratitude I now feel, at the happy termination of our Contest, is beyond my Expression.

If, dependg on the Guidance of the same Allwise Providence, I have performed my part in this great Revolution, to the acceptance of my fellow Citizens, It is a source of high satisfaction to me; and forms an additional Motive of Praise to that Infinite Wisdom, which directs the Minds of Men. This Consideration will attend me in the Shades of retirement, and furnish one of the most pleasing Themes of my Meditation.

So great a revolution as this Country now experiences, doubtless ranks high in the Scale of human Events, and in the Eye of Omnipotence is introductive to some noble Scenes of future Grandeur

to this happy fated Continent. May the States have Wisdom to discern their true Interests at this important period!

Impressed with sentiments of Gratitude for your benevolent Expressions for my personal Happiness and prosperity, I can make you no better return, than to pray, that Heaven, from the Stores of its Munificence, may shower its choicest blessings on you Gentlemen, and the People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to entreat that Our Liberties, now so happily established, may be continued in

43. This address, under date of July 10, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

perfect Security, to the latest posterity. With Sentiments of high Veneration etc.⁴⁴

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, August 12, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Since my return from the Northward I have made particular enquiry into the state of the Boats which may be rendered fit for service on the Western Waters, and find the number very small that are capable of being repaired, the expence of effecting which and transporting them to Schenectady it is imagined will equal or exceed the cost of building new Ones at that place.⁵¹

I have also written by the last Post to Congress, to the Superintendt of Finance, and the Qr Mastr. Genl on the subject of garrisoning the Western Posts, and that an advance of Money will be necessary for the purpose; but as it is uncertain when I may receive ansrs to these Letters; as it is doubtful whether Money can then be supplied from the public Treasury to enable the Qr Master Genl to enter into a Contract for Boats and to defray the contingent expences of the operation; and as the Summer is so far advanced that unless measures are immediately adopted for building Batteaux, the Work cannot be completed before the cold weather will set in, prevent all

44. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

This reply to the Address of the Legislature was transmitted to Samuel Adams, then President of the Massachusetts Senate, in a brief note of August 10, the draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

51. On August 14 Humphreys wrote to Knox: "His Excellency...desires that such Men as are acquainted with the repairs of Boats may be employed under the Quarter Master's direction, in repairing those Batteaux which will be fit for service on the Western Waters. Those Boats will be wanted to proceed to Albany as soon as possible." Humphreys's letter is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

communication on the Lakes, and compel us to give up to destruction the Fortifications which are to be ceded to us by the British; I find myself under the necessity of having recourse to your Excellency, and of requesting to be informed whether any Money can be furnished by this State for the before mentioned services; I have sent Col Humphrys to confer with you more fully on this important subject, to inform you what steps are taking for occupying the Posts in the first instance, and to bear the result of your Excellency's determination to me.

Had the completion of this business been less interesting to the United States in general, or to this State in particular, I should not have felt so much anxiety, or pressed the execution of it with so much earnestness. This consideration will I am persuaded be a sufficient apology for troubling your Excellency with the present application; and will I flatter myself at the same time induce the State to lend such Aid to the Public as may be in its power. I have the honor etc.⁵²

To THE MAGISTRATES AND SUPERVISORS OF TRYON COUNTY

[August 1, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I receive with the greatest pleasure your congratulations on the happy conclusion of a Peace;¹³ an Event which as it establishes the liberties and Independence of America must be pleasing to all, but particularly to the worthy Inhabitants of this County who have had so large a portion of the Calamities of war.

52. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

13. The original address from the Magistrates and Supervisors is dated Aug. 1, 1783, and signed by Christopher P. Yates, clerk. It is in the *Washington Papers*.

In the course of my tour thro a small part of this County I have had an opportunity of observing more particularly the severe distress that has fallen on the Inhabitants by the cruel devastations of the Enemy; the patience and fortitude with which they have borne these distresses, and their very spirited conduct throughout the whole of the War have done them the highest honor, and will give the Inhabitants of Tryon Co. a distinguished place in the History of this revolution.

Accept Gentlemen my thanks for your kind wishes for my welfare be assured it will be my earnest prayer that by the blessing of Providence on the fine Country you possess you may soon be enabled to recover your former ease, and to enjoy that happiness you have so well deserved. I am etc.¹⁴

***To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COMMONALTY OF ALBANY**

Albany, August 4, 1783.

Gentlemen: I accept with heart-felt satisfaction your affectionate congratulations on the restoration of Peace, and the formal recognition of the Independence of the United States. We may indeed ascribe these most happy and glorious Events to the Smiles of Providence, the Virtue of our Citizens, and the bravery of our Troops, aided by the powerful interposition of our

14. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Magnanimous and illustrious Ally.

For the favorable Sentiments you are pleased to express of my Agency in this Revolution, and for your benevolent wishes for my personal felicity I entreat you, Gentlemen! to receive my warmest acknowledgments.

While I contemplate with inexpressible pleasure the future tranquillity and Glory of our common Country, I cannot but take a particular interest in the anticipation of the encreasing prosperity and greatness of this Antient and respectable City of Albany, from whose Citizens I have received such distinguished tokens of their approbation and Affection.

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: Under the urgent necessity of making immediate preparations for occupying the Western Posts as soon as they shall be evacuated by the Enemy, which was stated very fully in the Letter I had the honor to address to your Excellency a few days ago by Col Humphrys; I consider myself obliged to request in the most pressing manner that you will advance five hundred Pounds or a larger sum, if practicable of the Monies of this State, to be accounted for by the United States, and to be

applied to this service alone; to obtain which without loss of time Mr Mix⁶¹ Assistant Qr Mastr. Genl waits upon you with this Letter and for which he will pass his rect. I have the honor etc.⁶²

To SAMUEL FRAUNCES

Head Quarters, August 18, 1783.

Sir: I have received with satisfaction your favor, congratulating me on the happy return of Peace, and the prospects of Returng to our former Walks of Life.

I take pleasure in complying with your Request of a Recommendation to the Citizens of America, as I am happy to find, by the Concurrent Testimony of many of our suffering Brethren, and others, that you have invariably through the most trying Times, maintained a constant friendship and

Attention to the Cause of our Country and its Independence and Freedom, and this Testimony is also strengthened by my own Observation, so far as I have had Opportunity of knowg your Character personally.

I do therefore hereby recommend you to the several Executives and to all the good People of these States, as a warm Friend, and one who has not only suffered in our Cause, but who has deserved well of many Individuals, who have experienced the rigors of Captivity in N York, and therefore One who is deserving the favor

61. John Mix.

62. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

and attention of these U States.

I wish you Health and prosperity, with a grateful Reception with your fellow Citizens, and am Sir
Your etc.⁷⁰

To TIMOTHY BRINLEY MOUNT

Head Quarters, August 18, 1783.

It having been represented to me from good Authority, that Mr Timothy Brinley Mount, the Bearer of this, late from Monmouth in N Jersey State, but some Time residing in the City of N York, has been a good friend to the Cause and Liberties of the United States, have been of particular service to many of the suffering Citizens of these States. And he havg applied to me, is hereby permitted to return to the Place of his former abode, and is hereby recommended to His Excellly the Governor and the People of the State of N Jersey; with my Wish that he may be received to the favor of his fellow Citizens, as his Merits appear to deserve it.⁷¹

70. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

71. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

To THE MAGISTRATES AND INHABITANTS OF THE BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Town, August 21, 1783.

Gentlemen: It gives me the most pleasing sensations to find so cordial a welcome on my return, in peace, to this pleasant Town, after the vicissitudes of so long and obstinate a Contest.⁷³

On this happy occasion, suffer me, Gentlemen, to join you in grateful adoration to that divine Providence, which hath rescued our Country from the brink of destruction, which hath crowned our exertions with the fairest fruits of success, and which now (instead of the anxiety and distress occasioned by perpetual Alarms) permits you to enjoy, without molestation, the sweets of Peace and domestic happiness. May a spirit of Wisdom and Rectitude preside over all our Councils and Actions, and dispose us as a Nation to avail ourselves of the blessings which are placed before us, then shall we be happy indeed, and as a just reward for your liberal and virtuous sentiments, may the felicity of the Magistracy and Inhabitants of this Corporation, be only limited by the duration of time, and exceded by the fruition of a glorious immortality.⁷⁴

[H.S.P.]

To THE INHABITANTS OF PRINCETON AND NEIGHBORHOOD, TOGETHER WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE

Rocky Hill, August 25, 1783.

Gentlemen: I receive with the utmost satisfaction and

73. Washington left Newburgh August 19 or 20 and was in Elizabethtown on August 21. His route, according to Lieut. Col. Benjamin Walker's expense account, which omits the details of dates, was through Tappan, Hackensack, Acquackanonck Ferry, Elizabethtown, Brunswick, and Princeton.

74. In the writing of David Cobb.

Washington inclosed this answer to the Address of the Magistrates, etc., in a brief note to Brig. Gen. Elias Dayton, who had signed as chairman. The address, dated Aug. 21, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*, and the text of Washington's note to Dayton is found in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

acknowledge with great sensibility your kind congratulations.⁷⁷

The prosperous situation of our public affairs, the flourishing state of this place and the revival of the Seat of Literature from the ravages of War, encrease to the highest degree, the pleasure I feel *in visiting* (at the return of Peace) the scene of our important military transactions, and *in recollecting* the period when the tide of adversity began to turn, and better fortune to smile upon us.

If in the execution of an arduous Office I have been so happy as to discharge my duty to the Public with fidelity and success, and to obtain the good opinion of my fellow Soldiers and fellow Citizens; I attribute all the glory to that Supreme Being, who hath caused the several parts, which have been employed in the production of the wonderful Events we now contemplate, to harmonize in the most perfect manner, and who was able by the humblest instruments as well as by the most powerful means to establish and secure the liberty and happiness of these United States.

I now return you Gentlemen my thanks for your benevolent wishes, and make it my earnest prayer to Heaven, that every temporal and divine blessing may be bestowed on the Inhabitants of Princeton, on the neighbourhood, and on the President and Faculty of the College of New Jersey, and that the usefulness of this Institution in promoting the interests of Religion and Learning may be universally extended.⁷⁸

77. The Address of the Inhabitants of Princeton, etc., to which the above was a reply, is dated Aug. 25, 1783, and is signed by John Witherspoon and 6 others. It is in the *Washington Papers*.

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am very sorry to find by the Report of the Baron Steuben there is no probability that we shall be put in possession of the Western Posts this fall; in consequence of this information and the late season of the year I have directed the movement of the Troops to be stopped, and the preparations to be suspended until further Orders.

Major Giles⁸⁸ (who is the bearer of this Letter) having occasion to make some application to your Legislature respecting a part of the Estate of Mr Axtel⁸⁹ the Uncle of Mrs Giles, and being unknown to you and but little acquainted with any of the Gentlemen of your Legislature, I could not hesitate to bring him acquainted with your Excellency, and to recommend him to your favorable Notice as a Gentleman and an Officer of Reputation. I have the honor etc.⁹⁰

To REVEREND JOHN WITHERSPOON

Rocky Hill, September 8, 1783.

Sir: I enclose to your care a Letter to Mr. Cowenhoven¹⁸ in answer to his Memorial and request, and his Letter to you and the President of Congress.

88. Maj. Aquila Giles, aide to General St. Clair. He served to the close of the war.

89. William Axtell (Axtel), loyalist of New York City. His property was confiscated.

90. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

18. Covenhoven (Cowenhoven).

In the course of Mr. Cowenhoven's Memorial he takes occasion to mention his assistance to one Mr. Wyckoff,¹⁹ who, he says, was employed by Governor Clinton [and me] to bring Money from Long Island; all the agency I had in this matter, was giving an Order, at the request of Governor Clinton, to the Officer Commanding our out Post, to permit Mr. Wyckoff to pass to Long Island, he being a public Agent appointed by the Governor to transact some business for the State, which the Legislature had directed. I thought it necessary to give you this information, to prevent any false impressions that might be made in your mind, on the reading of Mr. Cowvenhoven's Memorial, which may convey an Idea, that I had been concerned in a sinister intercourse with the Enemies of my Country; [he nor no other person, directly or indirectly was ever employed by me on such business.]²⁰

To NICHOLAS COVENHOVEN¹⁶

Rocky Hill, September 8, 1783.

Sir: Through Dr. Witherspoon I have received your Memorial with the enclosed Certificates; but so much time has elapsed since the period you allude to, in which you say you promised to perform particular services for me, that I have not the least remembrance of any circumstance of the kind;

19. Hendrick Wyckoff. He was captain of the Dutchess County (New York) militia.

20. In the writing of David Cobb. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

16. Of New Utrecht, Kings County, N. Y.

But this however, I recollect, that the morning on which General Howe moved with the British Army from the place he first landed at on Long Island, you came to my Quarters and gave me

information of it; and I have very frequently heard from the American Officers who have been prisoners on Long Island, that on all occasions you was their friend, and had generously supplied them with Money and every conveniency your situation would afford.

From the Account of your supplies of Money which have been made to the State and to individuals, I am fully perswaded that the Government of New York [will give a favorable attention to your case, and regard the certificates of which you have furnished me with Copies, as a strong evidence of your Inclination to support the American cause, at the same time that it furnishes instances of yr. humanity in relieving the distresses of suffering Prisoners.]¹⁷

To JAMES CASSATY

Rocky Hill, September 25, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 11th Instant came duly to hand, and I am sorry that the conduct of the Officer commanding at Oswego, put you to the inconveniencies you mention.

I expect Governor Clinton here in

17. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

the course of a few days, when I shall confer with him on what is further necessary to be done in this affair. I am &c.⁴⁸

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit to your Excellency the Copy of a Letter I have just received from Sir Guy Carlton, informing me of his having given orders for the evacuation of Penobscott.

Congress having come to no determination with respect to a Peace Establishment, and the few Troops remaining in service being on a precarious footing, liable to be discharged at every moment, are reasons, which with the great distance of Penobscott [and sudden notice of the B Comr in Chief] totally prevent my sending a Detachment to receive possession of that Garrison from the British; and therefore I thought it my duty to give your Excellency this information that the Government of Massachusetts may take such measures as they may think proper. With great esteem etc.⁷⁶

48. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

76. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington. His spelling and abbreviation are followed. At the bottom of this letter is entered the commitment to the committee appointed upon the Governor's message, and the concurrence of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, Oct. 23, 1783.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Rocky Hill, October 23, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I was extremely glad to hear by a Letter from Colonel Varick that tho' not yet restored to your usual State of health you was recovering it daily.

From many circumstances I think it now pretty evident that the British will leave New York in all next Month Sir Guy Carleton has informed me [verbally, through Mr. Parker,] that he expects to evacuate the City by the 20th. and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned he should be able to fix the day of his departure. in consequence of this Intelligence, and fearfull least I should not have timely Notice. I have this day written to General Knox, desiring him to confer with your Excellency and make every necessary Arrangement for taking possession of the City the moment the British quit it; an Extract of this Letter I do myself the honor to inclose. With great esteem etc.

P. S. I was just on the point of closing this when I reced

your Excellencys Letter of the 14 Instant and I am sorry to learn from it that you are still in such a low state of health.

The propriety of putting the Troops who may move towards the City under your Excellencys direction strikes me very forcibly, and I have mentioned it in a Postscript to Genl. Knoxs Letter; it will accordingly form part of the Arrangement you shall both agree on. I shall with pleasure comply with your wishes in sending you by express the first notice I get of the day intended for the evacuation.²

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Rocky Hill, November 2, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 14 October reached me in a few days and was replied to the day I reced it, to go by the Post before the last, by some neglect however the letter was left out of the Mail and remained in the Post Office until the Evening before the last Post should have gone, when it was with all the Eastern Mail stolen from thence nor can I now send you a Copy for all the Copies of my letters both public and private to that day met

2. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

the same fate being inclosed to Colo. Varick to record.³²

I had by the same Post and before I reced your Excellencys Letter, directed Genl. Knox to confer with you and have every necessary arrangement made to take possession of N York the moment the British should evacuate it; this I did in consequence of Sir Guy Carleton informing me verbally

thro' Mr. Parker that he expected to evacuate the City by the 20th of this Month and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned he should be able to fix the day.

Receiving your Letter after I had written this to Gen Knox I added a Post cript to his Letter desiring the Troops which might move down might be under your Command; my Letter to your Excy gave all this information and assured you of my Compliance with your request in sending you by Express the first notice I should receive of Sir Guy's intention to leave the City.

I now do myself the honor to inclose your Excellency extract of a Letter from Colo. Ogdon to me which assures us of the Definitive Treaty being signed the 3 September so that we may momentarily expect its arrival. I am, etc.³³

32. Varick wrote (Dec. 7, 1783): "The lost papers are just come to Hand and I have folded but not had Time to Number them...the Letter to me was not open'd, but in perfect Order and Muddy." Varick's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

33. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 3 (the "Letter Book" record is dated November 4) a certificate of service was given to Capt. Samuel Shaw, usually called "Major," from his aide rank. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To J. G. GEBHARD³⁸

Rocky Hill, November 5, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 15 September.

The happiness I experience in engaging the affections and esteem of my Country and the satisfaction I feel in having done my utmost to support their just Cause and promote their common good are, to me, the best rewards and beyond which I have none to wish for.

Tho' I cannot but be sensibly impressed by the many declarations of respect to me in your Letter and the delicacy of expression you have chosen to convey them by, yet the plan of policy connected with them and the intimations which accompany them, I cannot say accord altogether with my sentiments; nor can I think the publication of your address will be attended with any good consequences. I hope that giving you my opinion thus freely will Serve only to convince you that I set a true value on the favor you have done me and that, I am, etc.³⁹

38. Of Claverack, N. Y.

39. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. Gebhard's letter of September 15 is in the *Washington Papers*. It was a veiled suggestion for Washington to assume control of the Government.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

West Point, November 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: The very favorable opinion you are pleased to entertain of my public conduct, and the kind expressions of personal friendship you have had the goodness to repeat in your Letter of the 15th Ult. could not fail to receive my warmest acknowledgments; had not the higher Motives of esteem and attachment already rivitted my affections to you. Accept my best thanks for the present *testimony* of your regard, which is made more acceptable by the happy occasion.

Actuated, as we are, by the same anxious concern for the interest, the dignity and happiness of our Country, I was extremely pleased with the patriotic sentiments contained in your Excellencys Speech at the opening of the present session of your Legislature, as well as with the subsequent communication to them. Nor was I less satisfied with the happy effect of those sentiments in producing a compliance with the requisitions of Congress: a measure strongly tending to revive the expiring reputation and credit

of the Nation. Would to Heaven that the Legislatures of all the States might be inspired by a similar disposition to candour in discussion and rectitude in decision, before it shall be too late!

Be persuaded, my dear Sir, that my wishes and prayers will ever be most ardent for the health and happiness of your Excellency, and for the prosperity of the Commonwealth over which you preside. With sentiments of unalterable respect etc.⁶⁴

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

West Point, November 15, 1783.

[Dear Sir:] By this opportunity your Excellency will receive the requests of the pay Master and Q. Master Generals for the Loan of One Thousand Dollars each to enable them to supply the present necessities of the Army; if the terms of their proposals are agreeable, I should be very happy in your Excellency's compliance with their requests. I have the honor, etc.⁶⁵

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

65. From a contemporary copy in an unidentified hand.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inclose to your Excellency Copy of a Letter from Generals McDougall Clinton and Cortlandt, in favor of Major Hamtramck.

My knowledge of that Officer is such, as makes the task of recommending him to the notice of the Government of this State, extremely pleasing, being assured that if it shall be in their power to favor his views his conduct will always justify any appointment that may be given him. I have the honor etc.⁹⁹

To WILLIAM DUKE MOORE¹

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: Mrs. Bingham² has done me the honor to deliver me your Letter of the 15 March with the Seal you have been so polite as to present to me and for which you will please to accept my thanks.³ I could only wish the object had been more worthy the great talents

99. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

1. Of Dublin, Ireland.

2. Mrs. Ann Bingham, wife of Capt. Charles Bingham, of the One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Volunteers of Ireland, British Army, Her letter, dated Nov. 27, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

3. Moore's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. In it the seal is described as “your Excellency in Front, Trampling on the late Enemy of your Country, pointing to a Ship Underway departing from the Coast, with your Face at the same time turned to your Army, expressing the Motto by Virtue and Valour.”

shewn in the invention and execution of the Seal. You will however believe that I feel myself extremely flattered by this mark of attention and that I am, etc.⁴

To HECTOR ST. JOHN DE CRÈVECŒUR⁹

New York, December 4, 1783.

Sir: I recd with the greatest satisfaction the Message you had the goodness to bring me from my friend the Marquis de la Fayette. Nothing could give me more pleasure than a sight of that amiable, disinterested, and patriotic Young Nobleman.

While the polite mode of your communication merits my acknowledgments, I take a pleasure in congratulating you on your appointment to be the Consul of his Most Christian Majesty for this State. I am etc.⁶

4. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

9. French consul at New York.

6. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Philadelphia, December 15, 1783.

My dear Sir: It was with exceeding great concern I heard by Mr. Gouvr. Morris that you had a return of your Fever; I hope it was slight and that you are now perfectly restored to health. No Man wishes it more sincerely than I do.

I have been able to negotiate a matter with Mr. Robt. Morris by wch. about Seventeen hundred pounds York Currency will be thrown into your hands on my Acct. which sum, when received, I pray you to carry to the credit of my Bond.

I am within a few Minutes of setting off for Virginia, passing thro' Annapolis, where I shall stay two or three days only. My very best wishes always attend Mrs. Clinton and your family; and with much respect, and sincere Affection etc.⁴⁸

48. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1783.

My dear Sir: After as prosperous a Journey as could be expected at this late season of the year, I arrived at my Seat the day before Christmas, having previously divested myself of my official character. I am now a private Citizen on the banks of the Powtownmack, where I should be happy to see you if your public business would ever permit, and where in the meantime I shall fondly cherish the remembrance of all your former friendship.

Altho I scarcely need tell you how much I have been satisfied with every instance of your public conduct, yet I could not suffer Col Walker [whose merits are too well known to you to need a recommendation of him from me if any thing should cast up favorable to his wishes] to depart for N York, without giving your Excellency one more testimony of the obligations I consider myself under for the spirited and able assistance, I have often derived from the State under your Administration.

The Scene is at last closed. I feel myself eased of a load of public Care. I hope to spend the remainder of my Days in cultivating the affections of good Men, and in the practice of the domestic Virtues; permit me still to consider you in the Number of my friends, and to wish you every felicity.

Mrs. Washington joins me in presentg the Complts of the Season with our best respects to Mrs. Clinton and the family. I have the honor etc.⁷²

72. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE OFFICERS OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY MILITIA⁴⁶

Somerset, November 7, 1783

Gentlemen: I thank you for the polite attention you pay to me in your address⁴⁷ and for the affectionate anxiety you express for my happiness.

With a heart deeply impressed by the happy issue of a long and painful contest I most cordially participate with you in the general Joy and earnestly join my wishes with yours for the future prosperity and happiness of our Country. The repeated proofs of unabated valour and perseverance which I have been witness to in the Officers and Militia of the County of Somerset demand from me the acknowledgements which, for the last time, I have now the honor of making you, and as your Zeal in the field and in the services of your Country cannot fail to endear you to your fellow Citizens It is with much pleasure that in taking my final leave of you I can with the purest sincerity add this last testimony in your favor.

I now bid you Gentlemen a long farewell in the fullest confidence that Men who have

46. Of New Jersey.

47. In the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 7, 1783.

so bravely defended their Country, will likewise in their peaceable retirements contribute their best endeavours to confirm and perpetuate that happy Union of the States and its Citizens which under Providence has so visbly been the means of our deliverance and Independance.⁴⁸

48. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE MILITIA OFFICERS OF BERGEN COUNTY⁶⁰

Hackensack, November 10, 1783.

Gentn: I participate most sincerely in the joy you express at the conclusion of the War, and the re-establishment of the blessings of Peace.⁶¹

Persuaded of the rectitude of our cause, and relying on the divine aid for its success, I accepted an arduous employment, the event has justified my most enlarged expectation; and if to the

consciousness of having attempted faithfully to discharge my duty, I may add the approbation of my fellow Citizens, my happiness will be compleat.

To you, Gentn., who have experienced in no small degree the fatigues of a Military life, I must return these my last public thanks for the chearful and able assistance you have often afforded me. May you, as a reward of your virtuous conduct, enjoy the uninterrupted fruits of that Independence which has been procured at the hazard of our Lives.⁵⁹

60. New Jersey.

61. The address of the officers, dated Nov. 10, 1753, is in the *Washington Papers*.

59. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

To THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM EXILE

New York, November 27, 1783.

Gentlemen: I thank you sincerely for your affectionate Address,⁸⁵ and entreat you to be persuaded that nothing could be more agreeable to me than your polite congratulations: Permit me, in turn, to felicitate you on the happy repossession of your City.⁸⁶

Great as your joy must be on this pleasing occasion, it can scarcely exceed that which I feel, at seeing you, Gentlemen, who from the noblest Motives have suffered voluntary Exile of Many Years, return again in peace and triumph to enjoy the fruits of your virtuous conduct.

The fortitude and perseverance which you and your suffering Brethren have exhibited in the course of the War, have not only endeared you to your Countrymen, but will be remembered with admiration and applause to the latest posterity.

May the tranquility of your City be perpetual; May the ruins soon be repaired;

85. The address, dated Nov. 22, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

86. In Rivington's *New York Gazette* for Nov. 26, 1783, is an account of the entry of the American troops into New York City.

“Expences on the Journey from West point to N York &c. with Comr in Chief. Paid: At Pugsleys, 1 Dollars; ferriage at Tarry Town for Dragoons & Horses, 10; At Hunts Tavern, 2#; At Haerlem for servants, 4; At N York for Paper Quills &c. 2. Reced of H E Gl. Washington at Tarry Town, a double Louis, 9. Due me, 10# B Walker.” This memorandum is in the *Washington Papers*.

Commerce flourish; Science be fostered, and all the civil and social virtues be cherished, in the same illustrious manner, which formerly reflected so much credit on the Inhabitants of New York; in fine, may every species of felicity attend you Gentlemen and your worthy fellow Citizens.⁸⁴

84. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE FREEHOLDERS AND INHABITANTS OF KINGS COUNTY

New York, December 1, 1783.

Gentlemen: While you speak the language of my heart, in acknowledging the magnitude of our obligations to the Supreme Director of all human events; suffer me to join you in celebration of the present glorious and ever memorable Æra,

and to return my best thanks for your kind expressions in my favour.⁹¹

I cannot but rejoice sincerely that the national dignity and glory will be greatly encreased, in consequence of the good order and regularity which have prevailed universally since the City of New York has been repossessed by us; this conduct exhibits to the world a noble instance of magnanimity and will doubtless convince any who from ignorance or prejudice may have been

of a different sentiment; that the Laws do govern, and that the Civil Magistrates are worthy of the highest respect and confidence.

For my own part, Gentlemen, in whatever situation I shall be hereafter, my supplications, will ever ascend to Heaven, for the prosperity of my Country in general; and for the individual happiness of those who are attached to the Freedom, and Independence of America.⁹²

91. The address, dated Nov. 27, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

92. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On December 1 Washington wrote a brief introductory letter to Benjamin Franklin and Marquis de Lafayette, introducing Mr. Platt and his wife. The "Letter Book" copy of this is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same date (December 1) certificates of service were granted to Capt. John Lillie, Major Caleb Gibbs, and Elijah Hunter. The drafts of these are in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE MARINE SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

New York, November 29, 1783.

Gentlemen: I consider myself highly honored by the polite attention shewn me in your address, and the too partial manner in which you are

pleased to express your sense of my public and private conduct, at the same time I have the pleasure to assure the Corporation that I am extremely happy in becoming a member of their humane and excellent Institution.⁸⁷

To have conducted as a Nation with so much dignity and propriety thro' the unparrallel'd difficulties and dangers of an arduous contest, to have accomplished our fondest wishes, and to have fixed the Liberties of this Country upon the broad and permanent Basis of Independence will even reflect

the truest glory on the patriots of the present age, and afford the amplest field of description for the future Historian.

It would be a mark of great insensibility in me not to partake in the public Joy, or not to derive an unusual degree of satisfaction from the approbation of good Men and Lovers of their Country. Believe me Gentlemen! I shall return to private life impressed with the most pleasing sensations. A recollection of the happy scene to which I have lately been a Witness, will attend me in my solitary Walks, and cheer me in the shade of retirement.⁸⁸

87. The certificate of membership is in the *Washington Papers*, as is the address of the Society, dated Nov, 27, 1783, to which the above is the answer.

88. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

**To THE MINISTERS, ELDERS, DEACONS, AND MEMBERS OF THE REFORMED
GERMAN CONGREGATION OF NEW YORK**

New York, November 27, 1783.

Gentlemen: The illustrious and happy event on which you are pleased to congratulate and wellcome me to this City, demands all our gratitude; while the favorable sentiments you have thought proper to express of my conduct, intitles you to my warmest acknowledgements.⁸³

Disposed, at every suitable opportunity to acknowledge publicly our infinite obligations to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for rescuing our Country from the brink of

83. The address of the ministers *et al.*, dated New York, Nov. 27, 1783, is signed “Johann Daniel Gros V. D. Minister.”

destruction; I cannot fail at this time to ascribe all the honor of our late successes to the same glorious Being. And if my humble exertions have been made in any degree subservient to the

execution of the divine purposes, a contemplation of the benediction of Heaven on our righteous Cause, the approbation of my virtuous Countrymen, and the testimony of my own Conscience, will be a sufficient reward and augment my felicity beyond anything which the world can bestow.

The establishment of Civil and Religious Liberty was the Motive which induced me to the Field; the object is attained, and it now remains to be my earnest wish and prayer, that the Citizens of the United States would make a wise and virtuous use of the blessings, placed before them; and that the reformed german Congregation in New York; may not only be conspicuous for their religious character, but as exemplary, in support of our inestimable acquisitions, as their reverend Minister has been in the attainment of them.⁸⁴

84. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

**To THE MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION AND OTHER
INHABITANTS OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND WHO HAVE LATELY ARRIVED IN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

New York, December 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: The testimony of your satisfaction at the glorious termination of the late contest, and your indulgent opinion of my Agency in it, affords me singular pleasure and merit my warmest acknowledgment.⁹³

If the Example of the Americans successfully contending in the Cause of Freedom, can be of any use to other Nations; we shall have an additional Motive for rejoycing at so prosperous an Event.

It was not an uninteresting consideration, to learn, that the Kingdom of Ireland, by a bold and manly conduct had obtained the redress of many of its greivances; and it is much to be wished that the blessings of equal Liberty and unrestrained Commerce may yet prevail more extensively; in the mean time, you may be assured, Gentlemen, that the

93. The address, dated Dec. 2, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Hospitality and Benificence of your Countrymen, to our Brethren who have been Prisoners of War, are neither unknown, or unregarded.

The bosom of America is open to receive not only the Opulent and respectable Stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all Nations And Religions; whom we shall wellcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges, if by decency and propriety of conduct they appear to merit the enjoyment.⁹⁴

94. The draft is in the writing of David Tumpreys.

To THE CITIZENS OF NEW BRUNSWICK¹²

New Brunswick, December 6,¹³ 1783.

Gentlemen: I receive with perfect satisfaction the Address of the Citizens of New Brunswick,¹⁴ and acknowledge with great sensibility that their sentiments of my character and services are favorable beyond my fondest expectations.

If anything could add to my happiness, at the present auspicious period, it would be the testimony of esteem and veneration which you, Gentlemen, have just exhibited towards those Worthy and deserving Men who have so eminently contributed to the glorious termination of the War; and the protestation you have made of affording your influence and example, in rendering full and ample compensation for their important services. Altho I now am returning to a much wished for retirement, yet I cannot bid adieu to the Acquaintances and Connections I have formed while acting in a public character without experiencing a

12. New Jersey.

13. This draft of the reply to the address of the citizens of Brunswick is dated December 5, but indorsed by Washington as of December 6.

14. The address of the citizens, dated Dec. 6, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

certain pleasing, melancholly sensation, pleasing because I leave my Country in the full possession of Liberty and Independence; Melancholly because I bid my friends a long, perhaps a last farewell.

You must permit me Gentlemen to return you my best thanks for your benevolent wishes, and to assure you that the prosperity of the Citizens of New Brunswick will ever afford me the sincerest pleasure.¹⁵

15. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY

[Trenton], December 6, 1783.

Gentlemen: I want Words to express the heart-felt pleasure I experience on receiving the congratulation and plaudit of so respectable a Body, as the Legislature of the State of New Jersey.¹⁶ I cannot however suppress the effusions of my gratitude for their flattering allusion to an event which hath signalized¹⁷ the name of Trenton; for the delicate manner of their recalling to mind none but grateful ideas; as well as for all their former assistance at the period of our deepest distress.

I am heartily disposed to join with you, Gentlemen, in adoration to that all-wise and most gracious Providence which hath so conspicuously interposed in the direction of our public affairs and the establishment of our national Independence.

The faithful page of History, will I doubt not, record all the patriotic sufferings

16. The address of the legislature is headed "The Address of the Governor Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey." It is dated Dec. 6, 1783, is signed by William Livingston as president of the council and Ephraim Harris as Speaker of the assembly, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

17. The draft has the word "immortalized," with the word "signalized" written above it.

and meritorious Services of the gallant little Army I have had the honor to command; nor, (if my testimony and the voice of truth can avail anything), shall the efficacious exertions of the State of New Jersey, or the almost unrivalled bravery of its Militia ever be forgotten. Let the fact be made known to the whole world, let it be remembered forever as an example to succeeding Ages, that, after a large extent of Country had been overrun by a formidable Enemy, and thousands of Citizens driven from their possessions; the virtuous freedom of New Jersey, recovering from the temporary shock, stung by the remembrance of what their wives, their children and Friends had already suffered, by the thought of losing all they yet held dear and sacred, animated by an enthusiastic hope of success, and buoyed, by a reliance on the aid of Heaven, above the fear of danger and death itself then began to stem the tide of adversity; and, in concert with our other force, recoiling like an impetuous torrent on our lately victorious foes, confined them within narrow limits 'till compelled to take their final departure from the State.

For me, it is enough to have seen the divine Arm visibly outstretched for our deliverance, and to have recd the approbation of my Country, and my Conscience on account of my humble instrumentality in carrying the designs of Providence into effect; but for my gallant Associates in the Field, who have so essentially contributed to the establishment of our Independence and national glory, no rewards can be too great.

I am now to bid you a long farewell, and to recommend, you Gentlemen, and the State whose welfare you are appointed to superintend, to the indulgent care of Heaven. May unanimity and wisdom ever prevail in your public Councils! May Justice and liberality distinguish the

Administration of your Government! and may the Citizens of New Jersey be completely happy in the practice of Industry economy and every private Virtue.¹⁸

18. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

While in New York Washington gave “An Entertainment” at Fraunces's Tavern (at which he seems to have lodged from November 26 to December 4, inclusive) on November 30, for which the bill was £35. This item is in Samuel Fraunces's bill, in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Nov. 26, 1783.

A description of Washington's farewell to his officers was printed in Rivington's New York Gazette on December 6.

According to a bill of expense dated Dec. 7, 1783, in the *Washington Papers*, the Commander in Chief was in Trenton on Dec. 6, 7, and 8, 1783. He reached Philadelphia about noon on December 8.

To THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

[December 9, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I consider the approbation of the Representatives of a free and virtuous People as the most enviable reward that can ever be conferred on a public Character.²³

A sense of duty impelled me to contribute, whatever my Sword or my Pen could effect, towards the establishment of our Freedom and Independence. The smiles of Providence on the United exertions of my fellow Citizens have compleated our successes, and it remains to be my first and most earnest desire that the United States may profit by the happy occasion and preserve by wisdom and justice that liberty and honor they have so nobly maintained by Arms.

Anticipating the encreasing happiness and lustre of this growing Empire, I shall return to private life with a degree of

23. The address of the assembly, dated Dec, 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Satisfaction more easily to be conceived than expressed.

As this is the last time I shall have the honor of seeing you Gentlemen in my Official character, I cannot bid you a final farewell, without acknowledging the assistance I have frequently derived from your State, and the pleasure I have lately recd from a contemplation of the illustrious Example of the Legislature in adopting the recommendations of Congress with so much promptness and unanimity. May the Representatives and Citizens of this Commonwealth continue to possess the same good dispositions, and may they be as happy in the enjoyment of Peace as it is possible for a wise, just, and united People to be.²⁴

24. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE MERCHANTS OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.

Gentlemen: The perfect establishment of American Independence is indeed an event of such infinite importance as to fill the mind with gratitude and Joy; and afford the fairest occasion for mutual congratulations.¹⁹

The honorable sentiments you are pleased to express respecting the Merits of the Army; the just idea you entertain of their bravery, sufferings and magnanimity; and the honest desire you manifest of making an adequate compensation for their Services; are circumstances highly satisfactory to me, as well as extremely flattering to the gallant Men who are more immediately concerned. And I must

take the liberty to add, that the punctuality of the Merchants and other Citizens of Philadelphia in raising their proportion of Taxes for the support of the War, and their chearfulness

19. The address of the merchants, dated Dec. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. The merchants entertained the General at a dinner at the City Tavern on December 12.

in affording every other assistance in their power, are marks of Patriotism which deserve the warmest acknowledgements.

I am happy in having one more opportunity of expressing the personal obligations I feel myself under to You Gentlemen, for your favorable opinion and for the present as well as for every former instance of your polite attention.

Having long since been convinced of the expediency and even necessity of rendering compleat justice to all the public Creditors; and having at the same time been impressed with a belief that the good sense of my Countrymen would ultimately induce them to comply with the requisitions of Congress. I could not avoid being greatly pleased with the Example set by the State of Pennsylvania; nor can I conceal my satisfaction at finding your sentiments coincide so exactly with my own. Let us flatter ourselves, that the day is not remote, when a wise and just system of policy will be adopted by every State

in the Union; then will national faith be inviolably preserved, public credit durably established, the blessings of Commerce extensively diffused, and the reputation of our new-formed Empire supported with as much *Eclat* as has been acquired in laying the foundation of it.²⁰

20. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

**To THE PRESIDENT AND THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
PENNSYLVANIA**

[Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I am duly affected by the wellcome reception I have met with on my return to this City; and accept with unusual pleasure your Congratulation.²¹

But I feel myself particularly indebted to you Gentlemen, for that delicate, sensibility, which hath spared my feelings, and by suppressing your sentiments of my conduct, placed it in but too fair a point of light.

It is from a heart overflowing with gratitude for your past assistance and present politeness, that I reciprocate all your benevolent wishes.

While my farewell blessing thus attends you, permit me to give this last public testimony of the great

21. President John Dickinson's letter of congratulation for himself and the council, dated Dec. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

respect and esteem with which I have the honor, etc.²²

22. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE MILITIA OFFICERS OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, December 12, 1783.

Gentlemen: The honorable manner in which you are pleased to notice my return to this City, is particularly acceptable to me.²⁸

It would have been a proof of the want of Patriotism and every social Virtue not to have assumed the character of a Soldier when the exigency of the Public demanded, or not to have returned to the Class of Citizens when the necessity of farther Service ceased to exist. I can therefore claim no merit beyond that of having done my duty with fidelity.

While the various Scenes of the War, in which I have experienced the timely aid of the Militia of Philadelphia, recur to my mind, my ardent prayer ascends to Heaven that they may long enjoy the blessings of that Peace which has been obtained by the divine benediction on our common exertions.²⁹

28. The address of militia officers, dated Dec. 12, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

29. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Gentlemen: While you recall to my mind the honor formerly done me by enrolling my name in the List of the Members of your Society, you greatly heighten the pleasure of your present congratulations.³⁷

For if I know my own inclination, it is to be the friend and associate to men of Virtue and philosophical knowledge; or if I have a wish ungratified, it is that the Arts and Sciences may continue to flourish with encreasing lustre.

In the philosophic retreat to which I am retiring, I shall often contemplate with pleasure the extensive utility of your Institution. The field of investigation is ample, the benefits which will result to Human Society from discoveries yet to be made, are indubitable, and the task of studying the works of the great Creator, inexpressibly delightful.³⁸

37. The address of the American Philosophical Society, dated Dec. 12, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

38. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS OF PHILADELPHIA

[Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I entreat you to accept my grateful thanks for your affectionate Address;³⁵ and to be assured that the kindness and partiality of your sentiments respecting me, as well as the elegance and urbanity of your expressions, have made an impression on my mind never to be effaced.

Conscious of no impropriety in wishing to merit the esteem of my fellow Citizens in general; I cannot hesitate to acknowledge that I feel a certain pleasing sensation in obtaining the good opinion of men eminent for their virtue, knowledge and humanity; but I am sensible at the same time, it becomes me to receive with humility the warm commendations you are pleased to bestow on my conduct: for if I have been led to detest the folly and madness of unbounded

35. The address of the learned professions is undated but filed in the *Washington Papers* under date of Dec. 13, 1783. It is signed "In behalf of the Clergy, Gentlemen of the Law and Physicians of the City of Philadelphia," by John Ewing, and 8 others.

ambition, if I have been induced from other motives to draw my sword and regulate my public behaviour, or if the management of the War has been conducted upon purer principles: let me not arrogate the merit to human imbecility, but rather ascribe whatever glory may result from our successful struggle to a higher and more efficient Cause. For the re-establishment of our once violated rights; for the confirmation of our Independence; for the protection of Virtue, Philosophy and Literature: for the present flourishing state of the Sciences, and for the enlarged prospect of human happiness, it is our common duty to pay the tribute of gratitude to the greatest and best of Beings.

Tho the military Scene is now closed and I am hastening with unspeakable delight to the still and placid walks of domestic Life; yet even there will my Country's happiness be ever nearest to my

heart, and, while I cherish the fond idea I shall still retain, a pleasing remembrance of the able support the Public has often received from the learned

Professions; whose prosperity is so essential to the preservation of the Liberties, as well as the augmentation of the happiness and glory of this extensive Empire.³⁶

36. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE TRUSTEES AND FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

[Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I experience a singular satisfaction in receiving your congratulations on the establishment of Peace and the security of those important interests which were involved in the fate of the War.³²

Desirous of being considered the friend, and (as far as consists with my abilities),

32. Two copies of the address of the trustees et al., dated Dec. 13, 1783, are in the *Washington Papers*.

The Patron of the Arts and Sciences; I must take the liberty of expressing my sense of the obligations I am under to the Trustees and Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for paying me so flattering a Compliment,³³ and on so pleasing a subject.

I accept, Gentlemen, the honors you have had the goodness to confer upon me, with the greatest deference and respect.

May the Revolution prove extensively propitious to the cause of Literature; may the tender plants of Science which are cultivated by your assiduous care under the fostering influence of Heaven, soon

arrive at an uncommon point of maturity and perfection, and may this University long continue to diffuse throughout an enlightened Empire, all the blessing of virtue, learning and urbanity.³⁴

33. The degree of doctor of laws from the University of Pennsylvania, dated July 4, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

34. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE MAGISTRATES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have great occasion to be satisfied with the proofs you have now given of regard for my person, and approbation of my Services.³⁰

Nothing could have been more proper on this occasion than to attribute our glorious successes in the manner you have done, to the bravery of our Troops, the assistance of our Ally and the interposition of Providence.

30. The address of the magistrates, dated Dec. 13, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Having by such means acquired the inestimable blessings of Peace Liberty and Independence; the preservation of these important acquisitions must now, in a great measure, be committed to an able and faithful Magistracy. May the tranquility and good order of the City and County in which you are called to act in that respectable character, continue to exhibit your Example as worthy of universal imitation.³¹

31. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE BURGESSES AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WILMINGTON

Wilmington, December 16, 1783.

Gentlemen: I earnestly wish to convince you of the pleasure I take in reciprocating your congratulation on our glorious successes, and the attainment of an honorable Peace.⁵⁰

Altho' the prospect of our public affairs has been sometimes gloomy indeed; yet the well-known firmness of my Countrymen, and the expected aid of Heaven, supported me in the trying hour, and have finally realised our most sanguine wishes.

In the course of your Address you have sufficiently convinced me of your abilities to excite very pleasing emotions, and you must permit me to say, that the genuine approbation of my fellow-Citizens is far more satisfactory, than the most lavish encomiums could be.

Under a deep impression of

50. The address of the burgesses *et al.*, dated by Washington "Wilmington, Dec. 16, 1783," is in the *Washington Papers*.

your generous sentiments and wishes, I return to a long meditated retirement. And let me assure you, Gentlemen, tho' I shall no more appear on the great Theatre of Action, the Wellfare of our infant States can never be indifferent to me.⁵¹

51. In the writing of David Humphreys. The original is in the Delaware Historical Society.

To THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE

Baltimore, December 18, 1783.

Gentlemen: The acceptable manner in which you have wellcomed my arrival in the Town of Baltimore, and the happy terms in which you have communicated the congratulations of its Inhabitants, lay me under the greatest obligations.⁵²

Be pleased, Gentlemen, to receive this last public acknowledgement for the repeated instances of your politeness, and to believe, it is my earnest wish that the Commerce, the Improvements, and universal prosperity of this flourishing Town, may, if possible, encrease with even more rapidity than they have hitherto done. I have the Honour, etc.⁵³

52. The address of the citizens of Baltimore, dated Dec. 18, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

53. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF MARYLAND

Annapolis, December 23, 1783.

Gentlemen: I shall ever cherish a pleasing remembrance of the welcome reception I have experienced from your Excellency and the Council, on my return to this City, after the happy and honorable termination of the War.⁶⁵

The flattering sentiments you entertain of my exertions in defence of our Country, and the favorable point of light in which you place my Character, too strongly demonstrate your friendship, not to claim the most gratefull return from me.

Convinced from experience, of the wisdom and decision which have signalized the Government of Maryland, I cannot form a better wish for the future prosperity of the State, than that the same spirit of Justice and Patriotism, which actuated its

65. The address of the governor *et al.*, dated Dec. 20, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Councils during a long and eventfull War, may continue to dictate its measures thro' a durable and happy Peace. With the most perfect consideration etc.⁶⁶

[MD.H.S]

66. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND

[December 22, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I feel myself particularly happy in receiving the approbation of the Genl Assembly of Maryland, for those services which my Country had a right to demand, and which it was my duty to render in defence of it.⁶³

Having happily attained the object for which we had drawn the Sword; I felicitated myself on my approaching return to private life, and I must acknowledge I anticipated an unusual degree of self-gratification in that retirement which you have pleased to consider as an evidence of patriotism.

You have rightly judged, Gentlemen, that public Liberty cannot be long preserved, without the influence of those public virtues which you have enumerated. May the example you have exhibited, and the disposition you have manifested, prevail extensively and have the most salutary operation! for I am well assured, it is only by a general adoption of wise and equitable Measures, that I can derive any personal satisfaction, or the public any permanent advantage from the successful issue of the late Contest.

I am deeply penetrated with the liberal sentiments and wishes contained

63. The address of the General Assembly of Maryland, dated Dec. 22, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

in your last Address to me as a public character. And while I am bidding you a final farewell in that capacity, be assured Gentlemen, that it will be my study in retirement not to forfeit the favorable opinion of my fellow Citizens.⁶⁴

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

**To THE MAYOR, RECORDER, ALDERMEN, AND COMMON COUNCIL OF
ANNAPOLIS**

December 22, 1783.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to offer to you my sincere thanks for your Congratulations on the happy events, of Peace and the Establishment of our Independence.⁶¹

If my Conduct throughout the War has merited the confidence of my fellow Citizens, and has been instrumental in obtaining for my Country the blessings of Peace and Freedom, I owe it to that Supreme being who guides the hearts of all; who has so signally interposed his aid in every Stage of the Contest and who has graciously been pleased to bestow on me the greatest of Earthly rewards: *the approbation and affections of a free people* .

Tho' I retire from the employments of public life I shall never cease to entertain the most anxious care for the welfare of my Country. May the Almighty dispose the heart of every Citizen of the United States to

61. The address of the mayor *et al.*, dated by Washington Dec. 22, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

improve the great prospect of happiness before us, and may you Gentlemen, and the Inhabitants of this City long enjoy every felicity, this World can Afford.⁶²

62. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

***To MASONIC LODGE, NUMBER 39, IN ALEXANDRIA**

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1783.

Gentn.: With pleasing sensibility I received your favor of the 26th. and beg leave to offer you my sincere thanks for the favorable sentiments with which it abounds.

I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render Service to lodge No 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the Members of it; being with great truth your Affect. Brother, etc.

To THE MAYOR AND COMMONALTY OF ALEXANDRIA

[December 31, 1783.]

Gentlemen: Nothing could have contributed more essentially to encrease the satisfaction I experience on my return from a successful War, to the tranquillity of domestic life, than your affectionate Congratulations.⁷³

To find that neither time nor absence have interrupted or diminished the harmony of our happy neighbourhood, and that the circumstances are most favorable to the growth and prosperity of your rising Town, affords sensations of a very pleasing Nature. May the agreeable prospects be soon realized! and may the morals and conduct of the Inhabitants of Alexandria ever continue to insure its felicity.

While your friendly concern for my future welfare demands my best acknowledgments, I beg you will be persuaded, Gentlemen,

73. The address of the mayor *et al.* is in the *Washington Papers*.

that there is a certain homefelt [*sic*] gratification in receiving the approbation and good wishes of those with whom we have been long acquainted and whose friendship we value, which can more easily be conceived than described.⁷⁴

74. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, and indorsed by Washington with the date of December 31.

**To THE YANKEE CLUB OF STEWARDSTOWN IN COUNTY TYRONE, ULSTER,
IRELAND**

Mount Vernon in Virginia, January 20, 1784.

Gentlemen: It is with unfeigned satisfaction I accept your Congratulation on the late happy and glorious Revolution.

The generous indignation, against the foes to the rights of human Nature, with which you seem to be animated; and the exalted sentiments of Liberty, which you appear to entertain; are too consonant to the feelings and principles of the Citizens of the United States of America, not to attract their veneration and esteem, did not the affectionate and anxious concern with which you regarded their struggle for freedom and Independence, entitle you to their more particular Acknowledgments.

If in the course of our successful contest, any good consequences have resulted to the oppressed Kingdom of Ireland, it will afford a new source of felicitation to all who respect the interests of humanity.

I am now, Gentlemen, to offer you my best thanks for the indulgent sentiments you are pleased to express of my conduct; and for your benevolent wishes respecting my personal well-fare, as well as with regard to a more interesting object,

the prosperity of my Country. I have the honor, etc.⁹⁹

***To THE MAYOR AND COMMONALTY OF FREDERICKSBURG**

February 14, 1784.]

Gentlemen: With the greatest pleasure, I receive, in the character of a private Citizen, the honor of your Address.³⁹

To a beneficent Providence, and to the fortitude of a brave and virtuous Army, supported by the general exertion of our common Country I stand indebted for the plaudits you now bestow; The reflection however, of having met

99. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

In the Varick Transcripts, in the Library of Congress, is a copy of a brief note to Maj. John Davidson, dated Jan. 20, 1784, transmitting the above reply through him.

39. The address, undated, is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Feb. 14, 1784.

the congratulating smiles and approbation of my fellow-Citizens for the part I have acted in the cause of liberty and Independence cannot fail of adding pleasure to the sweets of domestic life; and my sensibility of them is heightened by their coming from the respectable Inhabitants of the place of my growing Infancy and the honorable mention wch. is made of my revered Mother; by whose Maternal hand (early deprived of a Father) I was led from Childhood.

For the expressions of personal Affection and attachment, and for your kind wishes for my future welfare, I offer grateful thanks and my sincere prayers for the happiness and prosperity of the Corporate Town of Fredericksburgh.

***To THOMAS BEE**

Mount Vernon, May 28, 1784.

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of your favor dated the 5th. of March, enclosing a unanimous vote of the Charleston library Society electing me an honorary member of their body with the certe. thereof end.⁴¹

For this mark of attention, and for the honor done me by enrolling my name as a member of so respectable a society, formed for such generous and laudable purposes, I beg the favor of you, Sir, to present my gratitude and best wishes for the completion of its objects; which, from the repose we have a prospect of enjoying, is scarcely to be doubted.

If it shou'd ever be in my power to offer any thing which may be useful, or that can afford the least satisfaction to the society, it will contribute not a little to my pleasure to do it. With the greatest respect

41. This certificate, dated Jan. 13, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 28 Washington wrote briefly to Armand, inclosing the letter to Rochambeau of May 16, to his care. "My best wishes always shall attend you, and nothing would give me more pleasure than to hear that you had attained the summit of your desires, in whatever walk of life you may bend your course." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

and esteem etc.

***To THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

May 28, 1784.

Gentn.: It was with pleasure which is more easy to conceive than express I received your congratulations on the restoration of Peace, and the happy establishment of the freedom, and Independence of the United States of America.⁴⁰

To meet the plaudits of my Countrymen for the part I have acted in the Revolution, more than compensates for the toils I have undergone in the course of an arduous

40. The address to the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives, dated Feb. 10, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 28 Washington wrote, jointly, to John Lloyd and Hugh Rutledge, president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, of South Carolina, inclosing his answer. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

contest; and to have them expressed in such indulgent, and flattering terms as are contained in your Communication of the 10th. of Feby. is not more honorable than it is pleasing.

Permit me, Gentlemen, on this occasion of general joy, to congratulate you and your State in a particular manner upon its present repose, and recovery from those scenes of accumulated distresses for which it has been remarkable. and whilst we have abundt. cause to rejoice at the fair prospect which a beneficent Provide. has ld. before us to assure you of my entire belief that the wisdom and liberallity of the People of So. Carolina will leave nothing unessayed to make the revolution as beneficial to mankind as it hath been glorious in the Accomplishmt.

For the favorable wishes you have kindly bestowed on me you have all my gratitude; and my prayers for the welfare of your State, shall never cease.

***To THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**

Virginia, July 15, 1784.

Gentlemen: With feelings which are more easy to be conceived than expressed, I meet, and reciprocate the congratulations of the Representatives of this Commonwealth, on the final establishment of peace.⁹⁷

Nothing can add more to the pleasure which arises from a conscientious discharge of public trust, than the approbation of one's

97. The address, dated June 24, from the General Assembly, to which this is the answer, is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Dr. David Stuart, June it, 1784, *ante*.)

On June 22 the House of Delegates of Virginia had resolved that the Executive procure a marble statue of General Washington "to be of the finest Marble and best Workmanship." The Virginia Senate concurred in this June 24. This resolve is in the *Washington Papers*. The statute, by Houdon, is in the State capitol at Richmond.

Country. To have been, under a vicissitude of fortune, amidst the difficult and trying scenes of an arduous conflict, so happy as to meet this, is in my mind, to have attained the highest honor, and the consideration of it, in my present peaceful retirement will heighten all my domestic enjoyments, and constitute my greatest felicity.

I should have been truly wanting in duty, and must have frustrated the great and important object for which we resorted to Arms, if seduced by a temporary regard of fame I had suffered the paltry love of it to have interfered with my Country's welfare, the interest of which was the only inducement which carried me to the field, or⁹⁸ to have suffered the rights of civil authority, though but for a moment, to be violated and infringed by a power meant originally to rescue and confirm.

For those rewards and blessings which you have invoked for me in this world, and for the fruition of that happiness which you pray for in the one which is to come, you have⁹⁹ all my thanks, and all my gratitude. I wish I could

98. Dr. David Stuart has here crossed off the clause "to have suffered" and substituted the word "permitted."

99. Doctor Stuart here inserted the word "Gentlemen."

insure them to you, and the State you represent, an hundred fold.

***To THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

[Richmond, November 15, 1784.]⁷¹

Gentlemen: My sensibility is deeply affected by this distinguished mark of the affectionate regard of your honble. House.⁷² I lament upon this occasion that my powers of utterance will not do justice to my feelings; and shall rely upon your indulgent report to supply the defect; at the sametime I pray you to present for me the strongest assurances of unalterable affection and gratitude for this last pleasing and flattering attention of my Country.

71. Washington reached Richmond on November 14 (Sunday). Lafayette arrived there November 18.

72. The House had appointed a committee, consisting of Patrick Henry, James Madison, Joseph Jones, C. H. Harrison, and Edward Carrington, to wait on the General with the complimentary resolve of the House, which is in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Nov. 15, 1784.

***To THE MAYOR, RECORDER, ALDERMEN AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND**

[November 15, 1784.]

Gentlemen: I derive great honor from your congratulatory address; the language of which, is too flattering not to have excited my utmost gratitude.

To the Smiles of Heaven, to a virtuous and gallant Army, and to the exertions of my fellow Citizens of the Union, (not to superior talents of mine) are to be ascribed the blessings of that liberty, Independence and peace, of wch. we are now in the enjoyment. Whilst these are afforded us, and while the advantages of commerce are not only offered but are solliciting our acceptance, it must be

our own fault indeed if we do not make them productive of a rich and plenteous harvest, and of that National honor and glory, which should be characteristic of a young, and rising Empire.

That this growing City may enjoy all the benefits which are to be derived from them, in the fullest extent; that it

may improve such as nature has bestowed, and that it may soon be ranked among the first in the Union for population, commerce and wealth is my sincere and fervent wish.

***To THE MAYOR, RECORDER, ALDERMEN, AND COMMONALTY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

[April 10, 1785]

Gentlemen: I receive your Address,⁵⁰ and the freedom of the City with which you have been pleased to present me in a golden Box,⁵¹ with the sensibility and gratitude which such distinguished honors have a claim to. The flattering expression of both, stamps value on the acts; and call for stronger language than I am master of, to convey my sense of the obligation in adequate terms.

To have had the good fortune

50. In the *Washington Papers*, Dec. 2, 1784, as is also the parchment Freedom of the City of New York.

51. The gold box was disposed of at the sales made to members of the Washington family at Mount Vernon in 1802, shortly after the death of Mrs. Washington. Its present whereabouts is unknown to the editor.

amidst the vicissitudes of a long and arduous contest “never to have known a moment when I did not possess the confidence and esteem of my Country.” And that my conduct should have met

the approbation, and obtained the affectionate regard of the State of New York (where difficulties were numerous and complicated) may be ascribed more to the effect of divine wisdom, which has disposed the minds of the people, harrassed on all sides, to make allowances for the embarrassments of my situation, whilst with fortitude and patience they sustained the loss of their Capitol, and a valuable part of their territory, and to the liberal sentiments, and great exertion of her virtuous Citizens, than to any merit of mine.

The reflection of these things now, after the many hours of anxious sollicitude which all of us have had, is as pleasing, as our embarrassments at the moments we encountered them, were distressing, and must console us for past sufferings and perplexities.

I pray that Heaven may bestow its choicest blessings on your City. That the devastations of War, in which you found it,

may soon be without a trace. That a well regulated and beneficial Commerce may enrichen your Citizens. And that, your State (at present the Seat of the Empire) may set such examples of wisdom and liberality, as shall have a tendency to strengthen and give permanency to the Union at home, and credit and respectability to it abroad. The accomplishment whereof is a remaining wish, and the primary object of all my desires.⁵²

[N.Y.H.S.]

52. This letter came into the possession of one John Allen in the 1830's and was sold at auction in New York City in 1864. It was purchased by DeWitt C. Lent for \$2,050. The mayor and aldermen sued for its recovery and secured possession. It passed into the custody of the New York Historical Society by gift from the city in 1873. The A. Df. S. is in the Library of Congress. The suit is reported in *51 N. Y. Supreme Court Reports*, January, 1868, p. 19.

***To JAMES DUANE**

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1785.

Dear Sir: A few days since by Doctr. Lee,⁴⁹ I had the honor to receive your favors of the 16th. of December from Trenton, and 10th. of March from the City of New York. The former enclosing an Address of the City, and the freedom thereof in a very handsome golden Box.

For the flattering expression of the Address, and the honor which is conferred on me by the freedom of the City, I entertain a grateful sense. I wish my powers were equal to my feelings, that I might express the latter in more lively terms than are contained in the enclosed answer.

Let me beseech you, Sir, at the moment you shall have laid it before your Worshipful Board, to add the strongest assurances of the respect and attachment with which I have the honor to be, their, and your, Most Obedt. etc.

[N.Y.H.S.]

49. Arthur Lee.